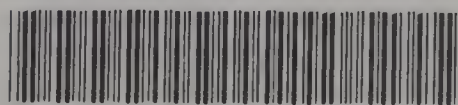


HER GUIDING
VOICE

JOHN EDWARD AMBROSE

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HER GUIDING VOICE



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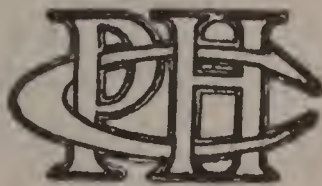
BY

John Edward Ambrose

Author of "The Voice of the Silence"

"The Call of the Soul"

"The Only Way"



The Christopher Publishing House
Boston, U. S. A.

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DEDICATED

To His Loving Guide

My Guide who led me in "This Way",
Still farther "The Way" will show,
And He, who taught me in this Truth,
Still more, will make me know.

“In that happy home above,
Where all perfect joy hath birth,
Thou dispenseth good and love;
Mother, as thou didst on earth;
And thou distant seems that sphere
Still I feel thee ever near.

(Her Guiding Voice.)

Though my longing eyes now views
Thy angelic mein no more,
Still Thy Spirit can infuse
Good in mine, unknown before.
Still the voice from childhood dear,
Steals upon my raptured ear.”

(Her Guiding Voice)

Anna Cora Ritchie.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

In writing "HER GUIDING VOICE," I have given to the human family my thoughts received through Inspiration—through an Unseen Force,—How the Soul of a Christian Mother, endowed with Intuition, follows a wayward son and protects him from the evil influences with which he is ever surrounded, instilling him to do kind acts and to live a God-like life.

It was after many years of roaming aimlessly over the face of the earth storm-tossed on life's rough sea,—and after many promises he made to that Dear Soul (Mother), that he would do better,—he realized his error.

He became a man among men and now employed by a firm for whom he served his time as an apprentice. Now he holds a position of Trust and is a prominent citizen. He is the head of a home with a loving wife and son.

He always gives his dear Mother due credit for what he accomplished, for it was "HER GUIDING VOICE" that was constantly on his mind.

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Her Guiding Voice

CHAPTER I

THE GREGORY HOME

The home of the Gregories was located on the outskirts of the neat little village of Galston, Scotland. Here in a wee tiny cottage mother Gregory was born, and I want to introduce to my readers that it is Mother Gregory whom I shall call the VOICE and she plays an extraordinary part in the Gregory family.

Being reared in a modest Christian home and having a loving disposition we shall pass along to where she becomes a loving wife and later on—a mother. I do not hesitate to say, that with such a pure and noble Soul she is bound to influence her family and those with whom she comes in contact, to do good.

There are three in the Gregory home—Mrs. Gregory, John, her husband, but she calls him Johnny, Teresa, a beautiful child of eighteen months, rather tall for her age, with long golden curls. How father and mother Gregory loved and adored her. Peggy, they called her.

Here we find them living a home-like life, pure and simple. The father worked in the coal mines near Galston and so far we find him satisfied for he loved his wife and child. Soon there is a new arrival in our little home, a son, whom they named Bennie, (this is our Wanderlust or Wanderer).

As we follow his footsteps—step by step through life we can readily see why we call him a Wanderer. Mother Gregory had an intense love for Bennie and as a tiny babe he would look up into her face and laugh and coo, holding out his chubby

little hands to her. No wonder she loved him and so did her husband. Peggy, too, loved and idolized her baby brother for she was of a loving disposition.

Shortly after Bennie came father Gregory began to grow restless and dissatisfied. Things were not going right at the mines and Johnny was in a state of unrest and kept on complaining.

Some of his fellow workers and friends were talking of going to America. So early in the spring John Gregory talked the matter over with his wife and they agreed that Johnny should go to America. But he thought of his family and said, "I dinna like to leave the bairns."

Mother Gregory told the neighbors that her Johnny was going awa, awa to America and if he liked it there he would send for her and the bairns and they, too would be leaving their bonny wee home.

The McKensey's were leaving, or rather Mr. McKensey and it was he, who persuaded Johnny to go at this time for he wanted Jock Gregory to accompany him but Father Gregory did not like the idea of leaving his wife and bairns.

Mother Gregory being an excellent house-keeper as well as a loving wife and mother, soon began making preparations for Johnny's departure to America. She wanted all his things to be carefully washed and mended so she set about her task. In a few days all was ready and she helped pack his trunk and grips knowing everything was spick and span and ready for him when he took up his new lodgings.

All was hustle and bustle around the neighborhood for these men were going on a long journey. In due time tickets were secured for their passage and as the time drew closer Mother Gregory said. "Now Johnny, don't forget to write often and send for me and the bairns soon as you ken, for we will be anxiously awaiting the news to come."

So on a bright July morning Johnny bid farewell to his neighbors, wife and bairns. Kissing them a loving good-bye he boarded the train which carried them from Galston to Liverpool. They arrived safe and found they had eighteen hours to wait before the steamer would set sail.

They spent the night in a lodging house and rising early the next morning we find them roaming about Liverpool.

CHAPTER II

LEAVE LIVERPOOL FOR NEW YORK

At noon we find John Gregory and Mr. McKensey aboard the steamer and ready to set sail. As the boat sailed down the river all was well for the day was bright and the weather favorable, but in a few hours the water was getting choppy the waves bigger, and as the steamer neared the coast of Ireland it was quite rough.

Stopping for mail at Queenstown we find Johnny too sick to write for he was sea-sick and could not send a letter to his loved ones whom he had just left and who would expect to hear from him before he started out on the Atlantic.

Leaving Queenstown a severe storm made the water rough and it got worse and worse, so John Gregory could not eat for he was indeed sick. His friend, Mr. McKensey wanted him to try to eat and see if he would not feel better. So just before dinner he said, "Jock, would ya like something to eat, did ya ken whatcha could eat?" But John said, "I dinna ken anything to eat, I'm too sick ya dinna ken ha sick I am."

Mr. McKensey was not affected and he tried to sympathize with Jock who could neither eat nor sleep.

Early in the morning of the fourteenth day at sea, they sighted land, Newfoundland. And Johnny thought of his wife and bairns, how they were going to stand the voyage for he was not anxious to make the trip across to bring them for he was glad that his trip was about over.

The steamer now entred the Hudson river, and as she passed the Statute of Liberty, which welcomes all strangers to her shores, Father Gregory aroused himself, and he and McKensie prepared to

leave the steamer as soon as she pulled alongside the docks at Hoboken Piers. Just before noon the tug pulled the big Atlantic Liner alongside the piers and now they were delayed a few hours, for all baggage had to be inspected by Custom House Officials.

So late that afternoon they were ready to go on their way. They boarded a train for Mahoney City and late that night we find our two voyagers among strangers in a strange land. Having very little trouble they secured lodgings and to John Gregory's credit he wrote to his wife and bairns whom he had left in good old Galston and his heart went out to them, for he knew Mother Gregory was anxious to hear from her Johnny.

In a couple of weeks Mother Gregory received the news of their safe arrival but John said not a word about the storm and how sick he had been. Oh no, it would not be right to alarm her, so we find Mother Gregory all elated over her news. He did not want to discourage her for he had no desire to cross the Atlantic again.

A few days later we find John Gregory at work in one of the mines, as a coal miner for the work was not strange to him. He wrote and told his wife that he had found work and liked the people, although there were all kinds of people here in America and as he wrote—ya dinna ken how they are here, not like being at home in Galston, ah mon it's not like being at home.

But he was contented and settled right down to hard work, for John Gregory was a hard working man, honest and faithful to his family whom he loved dearly. He wrote often. In the meantime John Gregory made many friends, but some of them were not of a type to associate with, for it was not long before John was staying out late drinking and gambling.

Had that dear Soul, Mother Gregory, many miles across the water, known that her Johnny was

drinking she would have been heart-broken, and worried to death but she was not to know of it so early, and for her sake it was better.

Several months passed by and Johnny had a little money saved from his earnings and he wrote saying he was saving money and would soon send for them. But his associates were dragging him deeper and deeper in the mire, his savings were gone and after a night spent in carousing and drinking, he was too sick to go to work in the morning.

When he came to his senses, he reflected on what was to be done,—what should he do—how was he to send money to bring his loved ones to him if he kept this up? This degrading life.

After Johnny had been here seven months, he received a letter from Mother Gregory in which she spoke of her love for him, how lonely she and the bairns were, and how she yearned to be with him. This stirred him to action, he was now roused from a long sleep; for he knew he had not done as he should.

He worked steady, refusing to be led astray by his associates, so in a way he had developed self-control. He began to save, laid it away in a trunk and at the end of nine months he had sufficient funds to send for his dear ones.

With a much lighter heart he wrote a loving letter to Mother Gregory telling all about his work and of his many friends and he assured her that she would like America. Best of all he was enclosing money to pay for their passage across the Atlantic. He was anxious to have them come and asked her to try and leave on *The Lord Gough* which was to leave on a certain date and he would meet them when they arrived.

CHAPTER III

THE DEPARTURE OF MOTHER GREGORY AND BAIRNS

It was a beautiful morning in April when Mrs. Gregory received her letter containing the money for her passage to America. She was overjoyed and hastened to tell her friends that she was going to join her Johnny in America.

Mother Gregory had a pleasant surprise for Mr. McKensy had returned to Galston. He came to take his wife back with him and so Mother Gregory would have friends on the voyage. She was indeed glad for they were bosom friends, these neighbors. They would be a great help and comfort to her, for having no children of their own, they could help Mother Gregory.

All the while, since Mrs. Gregory had parted with her Johnny, she had been busy, getting things together, making clothes in preparation for her trip, she used every cent of what she received from time to time, to be ready to leave when she should get the news and money.

So when the day came that was to take them away from dear old Galston, as her neighbors and friends bid them farewell, tears fell down her cheeks as she looked about her. She was leaving old friends and her old home, the tiny stone cottage that had been the scene of so much happiness and love. Then her mind turned to Johnny whom she had not seen for months, and she wiped away the tears and smiled.

She was happy to know she would be with him and how glad he would be to have his wife and bairns once more. So with everything ready they boarded the train for Liverpool, waving a fond farewell to all her friends.

Thinking of her husband and the joy of their

meeting took away the thought of the long voyage and it helped her to throw away the sadness of leaving her child-hood home with its memories of all that is dear to one of such a loving nature.

The trip from Galston to Liverpool was short and pleasant for the bairns were experiencing their first train ride and were too young to have any fear of the voyage which confronted them.

In fact Mr. McKensey did not tell them how rough his trip had been, neither did he inform them of the terrible time Jock had in crossing, for he did not want to spoil any of their pleasure, by instilling fear in their minds.

Mother Gregory knew that some folks got seasick but that never entered her mind, for all she could think of was the pleasure of being with her Johnny in America. Her whole desire was to have a home with those she loved.

Arriving in Liverpool they found that The Lord Gough would leave the next day so they had dinner and secured lodgings for the night. Having all arrangements made they spent what time they had in sight-seeing, for neither of the women had ever had the privilege of being in a large city.

Every-thing was strange to them so with Benny in her arms and Peggy at her side Mother Gregory and her friends took in the sights of Liverpool. At night we find them all worn out and ready for rest.

Early the next morning they busied themselves getting ready for the trip to the steamer which was not far away. Settling for their lodging they started for the wharf and at eleven o'clock their baggage was on board the vessel.

Mother Gregory was the last of the party to walk up the plank and board the steamer, turning toward the shore, she waved a fond good-bye to her Bonnie Scotland the place of her birth. "Many happy hours have I spent on your moors, but never expect to see you again, Good-bye." And Mother Gregory never did see her Bonnie Scotland again.

At noon the big Atlantic Liner was cut loose and the tugs alongside, brought her clear of the piers she let out a thrill of her huge whistle as she put on steam and headed into the English Channel, plying a straight course for Queenstown where she would take on mail for The United States.

While crossing this Channel to the Irish coast many of the passengers were sick-sea-sick and some of them wished they were back home again. But not so with Mother Gregory, she stood the storm and another thing to her credit, she kept careful watch over her babies, who were sick but soon got over it and we find them romping about on deck, joyful as only care-free children are, for they enjoyed the breeze and the novelty of the big liner and its strange people.

Leaving Queenstown the vessel went plowing and plying her nose towards the deep briny sea heading for New York with its cargo of human souls. Where in a strange land many would be met by loving, loyal friends glad to receive them with open arms. But Mother Gregory knew that Johnny could not meet her on landing for it was a long trip to New York and funds were not so plentiful. So she was not disappointed for she knew he would meet her and the bairns at their destination for he was anxiously awaiting their arrival.

All went well until an accident befell little Peggy, as they were eating breakfast, a bowl of hot gruel was spilled on her and she was pretty badly burned, but Mother Gregory with all her Motherly love attended her child and as the Ship's doctor bandaged the arm and looked after it, the anxious mother was relieved of some of the worry. To have them sick was bad enough, but to see her darling suffer was as much as she could stand. So bestowing all her loving care on Peggy, she made things as pleasant as she could, always thinking of the time when they would be with Johnny and he too could share her responsibility.

Early on the morning of the fourteenth day, the news spread that land was in sight, and oh! the joy of the passengers. Hope sprung in every heart, gloom and depression disappeared and all was gladness, many cheered and laughed with joy, for they were anxious to be on land once more.

In a few hours they passed The Statue of Liberty and entered the Hudson. You can imagine the joy of these souls to be so near the end of a rough and tedious voyage for they had encountered quite a storm for two or three days and no one was permitted on deck. Many thought their hour had come and one old lady began to sob, saying they were all lost.

But not so, the storm cleared and no serious damage done, so their hearts were truly filled with gratitude and now all were busy getting things in shape to land as they were in plain view of New York.

Now for the Custom House Inspection. This is usually a tiresome experience especially for foreign passengers who are often sent to Ellis Island where they are sometimes delayed two or three days before they can go on their journey.

Mother Gregory and her friends had no trouble and as soon as they passed inspection they lost no time in getting to the train which would carry them to their destination and Mother Gregory to the arms of her husband Johnny, who anxiously awaited their coming.

CHAPTER IV

ARRIVAL OF MOTHER GREGORY IN MAHONAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Late that night Johnny was to have his joy gratified for as the train arrived he was there to welcome his wife and bairns who were glad indeed to see him once more.

"Johnny, I dinna want no more of going across the water." Like her husband, she too, had had enough for she certainly had her hands full. Her kind disposition and pleasing manner had won her many friends on the trip and she appreciated all the kindness that was bestowed on her and her children. She always had a sweet smile and a pleasant thank you for any little attention paid the bairns. She always sent out kind helpful thoughts to those with whom she came in contact.

But Johnny agreed with her about crossing again, for he said, "Ya dinna need to, lassie." So right from the first they agreed to spend the rest of their days in America. But Mother Gregory told Johnny he could say what he pleased but when he went away, they would go right with him, for she had enough of being alone with the bairns. And we do not blame her for taking this stand.

Johnny took every-thing in good humor and they were peacefully settled in his boarding house, until they were rested from the long journey. After a few days they began to plan to go house-keeping, for Mother Gregory was anxious to be in a home with Johnny and the bairns for she said, "Ya ken well, John I'm na used to boarding and lodging, and it is not good for the bairns."

Johnny assured her that she was right and said, "I ken well, lassie, and we'll be awa to our ain place, soon as I ken, ah mon." And it was quite true,

Mother Gregory had always been in her own home, living with her parents whom she honored as well as loved. Then she left the home shelter to start a home of her own with John Gregory. They had been happy in their little cottage in Galston, Scotland.

So she wanted to have a little home in America, where they could care for the bairns and be happy in each others love. Johnny worked faithfully, saved all he could to buy furniture to set up house-keeping in Mahonay City.

This willingness on the part of her husband pleased Mother Gregory and along with caring after her children, she found time to help around the boarding house, for she was used to hard work and was willing to help some one else for as she said, "The best ya na how."

Mother Gregory realized that it was necessary to wait a little till they had saved a few dollars for it had taken quite a sum to bring them safely to America and she did not forget to give thanks for all those blessings. And now she prayed fervently that they might be enabled to get the things they so much needed, and she had full faith that her prayer would be answered.

She also knew it was necessity that started the human race on its forward way. And as each man driven by necessity, seeks to excel the other, so progress came into the world.

Only in necessity are we taught to unfold the secret powers that are born within us. When a man is compelled to face a task or an emergency, then his thinking capacity becomes keen, and he faces the work on hand, with considerable heart.

So it was with John Gregory, he set about in earnest and his burden seems to lighten with the very thought of being able to establish a little home of their own where he would have his family to himself.

You may be sure he had another anxious soul

who was inspiring him day by day, to go right on, all would be well in time for she had faith in her prayers and knew they would be answered as she prayed for success, and taking her Bible she read the twenty-third Psalm.

“The Lord is my Shepard; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: He leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name’s sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me: Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: Thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Spirit forever.”

Such was the Soul expression of Mother Gregory, that implicit faith in God, and how she humbly implored Divine Guidance, to help her in this hour of trial knowing well and never doubting but that her prayer would be answered and she placed her trust in His hands.

In the mean time Johnny worked faithfully and getting along nicely, he told her that by another pay-day they would be able to get a little furniture. enough for a room or two to begin with. This was indeed pleasing to Mother Gregory, for she was very anxious to get settled.

However, they did not have to wait for Johnny had confided in a friend a Fore-man at the mine, by the name of Tom Horton. When Mr. Horton heard how they were striving he called to see Mother Gregory and Johnny and he offered to aid them so they could get enough furniture for three rooms and not have to wait any longer.

He assured them that they need not be anxious about paying the debt as he was in no particular

hurry and they could pay it as the money could be spared. So we see Mother Gregory's prayers were being answered in every letter of the word.

"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Spirit forever."

CHAPTER V

THE GREGORY HOME IN MAHONAY CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

The following week Tom Norton kept his word and furnished sufficient money to get things for the Gregory home. So while Johnny was at work, Mother Gregory dressed her bairns in their Scottish plaids and began selecting what was needed to furnish a modest home and ordered it sent the next day.

Johnny called at the office and asked for a house, saying he had his family with him now and they wanted to have a place to themselves. The clerk was very nice about it and wanted to know what kind of house he wanted. So Johnny asked for a four room cottage.

"All right, said the clerk, you may have No. 64 in the second row and you will find it a nice neat cottage and here is the key, go over with your wife and have a look at it. If you like it let me know, Mr. Gregory." Johnny said, "Yes, I will let you know, but I think it will be all right."

That night Johnny told Mother Gregory he had the key to a wee small cottage of four rooms in the second row, and after supper we will go look at it, and if you are satisfied I'll let the clerk know. As Mother Gregory was anxious to get settled she told Johnny they would take the house and the things I have will do till we can do better. So that was settled.

Johnny offered to stay home a day or so and help fix up the house but Mother Gregory said, "Johnny, ya ken we need the money, and I ken fix things a wee bit in a day or so."

Mother Gregory was a hard working woman and by exerting herself, she had things pretty well

fixed by the time Johnny came home the first night and how glad he was to have his own house and Mother Gregory was more than glad.

At supper, with his wife and bairns, in their new home, he said, "How good to be by ourselves again." I like this house, lassie and bless ya, ya have things looking fine, my lassie." Now we can have what we want at any time, lassie."

Being true to the Scottish custom, no wonder Mother Gregory had oatmeal porridge for their first breakfast in their new home. Johnny said, "Ah mon, lassie, this is the first time I've had porridge since I left Galston, and its the only thing for breakfast."

The children enjoyed this dish also and it proves a healthy dish for most of the Scottish people are hardy and healthy. Now that the house was in order, Mother Gregory can devote her time to her bairns whom she loves with all a true mother's love and she impressed them daily to give thanks for all the bounties they were enjoying.

Each night Mother and children knelt beside their beds, praying fervently for the Infinite to guide their footsteps in their daily walks of life, to bless the sick and those afflicted, and to bless everybody. For she taught them to let the Soul express itself freely and unselfishly.

This gives us but a glimpse of what was in the mind of this dear Soul, Mother Gregory, for it is a true saying, "As it is within, so it is without." Also, "As it is above so it is below."

Going on day by day we see the goodness within this dear Soul, who is loving, honest and truthful in all things. As she prayed from the depths of her soul, she would ask for guidance at all times, praying for the sick and the afflicted, those at home and those who were absent, and in hours of trials, which arose from time to time she would repeat a well known hymn

“Though dark my path, and sad my lot,
Let me be still and murmur not,
Or breathe the prayer Divinely Taught
THY Will be done.

Let but my fainting heart be blest,
With Thy good Spirit for its guest,
My God, to Thee, I leave the rest.
THY Will be done.”

Often, in the evening, we find the family gathered around the table enjoying quiet, innocent games. On some occasions Mother Gregory would allow the children to invite the neighbors' children and they would enjoy doing things as Mother Gregory would teach them. Sometimes they would write and then again they would sew finally ending in games of a quiet nature.

Mother Gregory always impressed them not to play cards, telling them no good would come of it. Who would not like to be neighborly and mingle with Mother Gregory and her children? For she had a clean heart within her, as she often asked God to create a clean heart within her, and being of a loving and cheerful disposition she made many friends, steadfast friends who loved her, in return.

She visited the sick and helped the poor, and every Sunday you would see Mother Gregory and the children going to church but her husband, Johnny, did not often accompany them for he was not very religiously inclined.

Sunday afternoons and evenings would find Mother Gregory with her bairns around her, anxious to hear her read the stories which she selected to teach them some lesson that she felt was needed at that particular time. These little pupils drank in the knowledge and early in life they had a clear understanding of a Loving Supreme Being.

This is in truth a mother's love, and they all loved and idolized her. The Gregory family had been living in their little cottage more than a year

and John was doing fine at the mines and was saving a little money.

Soon, Mother Gregory gave birth to a son whom they named Harry and how glad Benny was to have a little brother, Peggy, too was highly elated to have a little baby brother, for she was a motherly little child. Now there are five in the family and they were all obedient to their mother at all times. Benny, our wanderer, is now two years old, and there seemed to be a very close tie between mother and eldest son. While Mother Gregory loved all her children with a deep mother love, yet, there was an attraction and attachment which drew her nearer to Benny, something of a Divine Nature, for she clung to him and he seemed to listen to "Her Guiding Voice" even though he was only two years old.

CHAPTER VI

LOVING GUIDANCE OF MOTHER GREGORY

Mother Gregory was kept very busy now with three children and her John to look after. Being a real home builder, she taught her children to help with little things about the home. Peggy was quite a help to her mother and loved to take care of baby Harry, for she loved to play mother.

As we go on with the life of Mother Gregory, we find additional cares and burdens which she took upon herself. Always loving and kind to her children, cheerful and affectionate at all times, no wonder she was beloved by all with whom she came in contact.

She was happy in the thought that she was loved and she tried to be a good neighbor as well as a loving mother. Most of all she was loved by her Johnny, and the bairns, especially Benny, (our wanderer). Mother Gregory always had a kind word for everybody, ever ready to do a kindness, for she said, what ever you do, do it willingly, and from the heart, no matter how trifling it may seem. Do or give with a good thought and you will reap it fourfold.

That was the thought she carried through life, instilling it upon the minds of her children from day to day. Her husband was working steady and they were able to save a little money, for Mother Gregory believed in having a bit ahead in case of emergencies.

John Gregory had fallen into his old habit of drinking again, but he would try to hide it from his wife, for he knew she would be so sorry to know her Johnny was drinking, and he did not want to worry her for he loved his lassie.

John was dis-satisfied with his conditions at the

mines and was beginning to get restless—he wanted a change. Some of the men had been telling him how much better conditions were at Mt. Carmel, Pennsylvania, than where he was at present, so he thought the matter over very seriously.

The next morning he told Mother Gregory about his desire to make a change saying, “Lassie, I ken they are doing better at the mines in Mt. Carmel, than here.” “All right,” says Mother Gregory, “Ye ken well that we all gang awa together this time.” “All right,” said Johnny.

The week following, was the time for the monthly pay, and as John had worked steady and his wife had a little money saved, they wanted to clear their debt to Tom Norton. Mother Gregory did not forget the kindness shown them on their arrival. So she said to Johnny, “Ya ken I have a little saved and with your pay, we must pay Mr. Norton, and don’t forget to thank him, Johnny, for his kindness and generosity, for it was the hand of God that led him to us.”

The Gregory family were preparing to leave and John spoke to his friend Tom Norton about paying back the money he owed him, but Tom said, “John you don’t need to be in such a hurry, don’t run yourself short to pay me.”

John then told Mr. Norton that he was going to quit and go to Mt. Carmel to work. This was a surprise to Tom Norton, who found in John Gregory, a dependable as well as an experienced man, and he did not want to lose so faithful a worker. So he tried to persuade John Gregory to stay, but he did not succeed.

John had that spirit of unrest within him, which was (as we shall see later on, in his eldest son, Benny, our wanderer.) He had made up his mind to go to Mt. Carmel and he was going, that was all there was to it.

That night, as Mother Gregory was putting her bairns to bed, she began to think about herself and

the little lives given into her keeping; how, sometimes they were shrouded in darkness and no matter how good our eyes may be we can not see the inner workings of nature. But as we scrape away at the thick walls of our hidden selves, we break into the light.

So this was the thought of this dear Soul, who knew that to ask was to receive, she believed in expression, in expression of her soul. And she knew that God would answer her prayer. "Oh God! from whom all blessings flow, look down upon Thy servant, we ask Thee to guide us on our journey, to our new environments, and lead us by Thy guiding Hand.

Thou knowest our innermost thoughts and desires, and our needs, grant these we beseech Thee, and give us Thy blessing. Bless the sick and afflicted, bless the poor and needy, and bless these who are away from home whom we love." At the close of her prayer she would sing.

"Abide with me, fast falls the eventide,
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour,
That but Thy Grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself, My Guide and stay shall be
Through clouds and sunshine, Lord, abide with me."

Thus Mother Gregory expressed her Soul, as she asked for guidance in her hours of trial, having implicit faith in an unseen and Wise Creator, that her prayer would be answered.

Next morning at breakfast, Mother Gregory said, "Dinna ya know, Johnny, I feel that the hand of God will lead us. I prayed long last night for Him who knoweth and doeth all things well, to guide us, and do ya ken, Johnny, I feel that there may be dark clouds around us at times, but there is a silvery light shining through, and it is so heav-

enly, and that as we see the shadows of today, they are but the brightness of to-morrow, or soon to come, yes, Johnny."

After breakfast Johnny started for work to get things in shape to quit and get his pay. Mother Gregory cared for the bairns and was busy too, getting ready for their change which was close at hand. So the day passed quickly, for she had much to do.

About five o'clock Johnny came home and was met by his wife and bairns who welcomed him with kisses for he was a loving husband and father. Mother Gregory did not like the idea of leaving their cottage, so soon, for they had been happy here and she told Johnny so. But she said, "If we must go, God abide with us."

That night as soon as supper was over, John went out with his associates but he began to think things over and he knew he had not done all he could to make things easy for his wife, so instead of spending the evening in drinking and gossiping, he returned to his home, just in time to see Lassie putting the bairns to bed.

She smiled to see him home so soon and told him how glad she was to have him home so early. So he began to help get things packed, ready to ship to their new home. The next morning they continued preparations for leaving Mahonay City and while John saw to getting the things hauled to the freight depot, Mother Gregory was busy with the bairns and setting things straight before leaving her little home that afternoon.

Everything was hustle and bustle in the little cottage, but finally all was ready and John went to the office to get his money and to pay his friend, Tom Norton and thanked him for the help extended when it meant so much to them and so we find John bidding farewell to his old associates with whom he had spent so much time.

As we know John Gregory had a weakness for

drink we pity, rather than censure him for his weakness. But getting away from some of those associates may help him for a time at least. So bidding them farewell, the Gregory Family boarded the train for Mt. Carmel. Arriving here they were met by a friend of Johnny's who took them to his home where they staid for a week.

CHAPTER VII

THE GREGORY HOME IN MT. CARMEL

During the following week, the household goods arrived, and now John and his friends were busy transferring them to their new home, a house which Johnny had obtained from the Mining Company for whom he was to work.

Having the furniture, it did not take Mother Gregory very long to get settled in the new home, but she did not like it as well as the little cottage they had just left. This was an old house but it was clean.

John Gregory was placed in a mine about a mile and a half from town, so he had this distance to walk, night and morning, but he did not mind that in the least. Shortly after the Gregory family were settled in their new home, Mother Gregory was blessed with another child, a little daughter whom they called Amelia.

Johnny now had four children to work for and mother and baby were doing nicely and all was well for Teresa, or Peggy as she was usually called was a good help to her mother and she was delighted to have a little sister to help care for.

These were busy days for Mother Gregory as Peggy and Benny were in school and although Mother Gregory needed Peggy to help her, she would not keep her out of school, and Peggy liked to attend reglarly and was always anxious to have her lessons well for Mother Gregory had taught her children to love and obey. Now we find she is reaping the harvest for Peggy is Loyal to her teachings and her teacher is well pleased with her progress.

John Gregory liked the work here better than at Mahoney City, for better conditions existed and more modern methods were employed, making it

easier for the men to get along. So we leave John better satisfied and more contented for the time being. Although he made several changes he remained in this vicinity for some years.

Two years had elapsed during which the family were in excellent health and were getting along nicely. Benny, now eight years old, leaves school to go to work picking slate in the tipple at the mine along with other boys who were employed to do the same, pick out the slate from the coal as it was dumped into the schutes at the tipple.

Benny was pleased to be earning a little money and he beamed with pleasure as he emptied his pay envelope into his mother's lap. This feeling that he was helping his mother was an incentive to him, for he loved her dearly. She always gave him some change about a quarter or thirty cents and with this he would buy some thing and share with his sisters and brother. We find him openhearted and loving as well as unselfish by nature.

As the children grew older, Mother Gregory sent them to school and even though she needed help she refrained from taking any of them out of school even for a session, for she realized that each lessons was a stepping stone for the one to follow. So in this way she aided the teachers who were competent, and they appreciated this very much. And thus they worked hand in hand and we find Mother Gregory co-operating with the school at all times.

It grieved her to know that it was necessary to have Benny at work when he should have been in school, but they needed the extra earnings which his work brought, to keep out of debt, for at this time John Gregory began to drink again, and was drinking to excess. So we see he always had a bill for his drinks, and this amount he would take out before giving Mother Gregory the pay. By this they were always short of money and no wonder

our dear soul, Mother Gregory was worried to think Johnny would treat her so shabby.

She tried to reason with him, explaining how he was not doing right, to get drink when he did not have the cash to pay for it, and to run a bill at the saloon. She also tried to make him see how wrong it was to keep Benny out of school at his age, but to no avail.

Finding that she could not make him realize the great wrong he was committing she turned her attention to her children whom she loved more than all else and she was amply rewarded by knowing they loved her dearly and would do any thing to please her for she always had a loving smile and bless you for them.

It was not long before the dear little ones found out that their father was drinking and they began to fear him, for he was not the kind father they were used to seeing, and they learned to keep out of his way.

Mother Gregory would put them to bed early so they need not see Johnny in this condition and as she knelt by their beds she would pray for guidance and ask for strength to meet this condition and not forgetful of all the blessings they had received, but she implored The Supreme One to show her what to do and give her wisdom and knowledge to do what was right at all times. She had faith that her prayer would be answered.

“Lord I would clasp Thy Hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur nor repine,
Content, whatever lot I see,
Since ‘tis my God that leadeth me.”

From the inner depths of her Soul Mother Gregory made such expression, asking for the guidance of the Divine One to lead her along the path of duty and to God and to her family as she would often sing, “I need Thee every hour.”

As we follow the Gregory family through the

course of years we see in Mother Gregory a devout Christian woman and she taught her children to be likewise. Our wanderlust, Benny, was now eleven years old and he is now a mule driver in the mine, this is lighter work and better pay, so he feels he is doing more to help his dear mother, and child that he was he realized that her burdens were many and heavy.

There were many mouths to feed and money was needed so he was willing to help in every way possible. Mother Gregory was obliged to take Harry out of school and send him to work as slate picker at the tipple. How she hated to have to consent to this, but her husband was drinking heavily and bills must be paid.

These little children learned early just what it was to be poor, and to have a father who spent his time away from home, drinking and gambling, neglecting his family. But on the other hand they were drawn closer to their mother whom they loved and idolized. Nothing was too much for them to do, if it pleased her and they felt it was making her burden a little lighter to bear.

How big the boys felt, how manly, to start off to work each morning, knowing in due time they would have their earnings to empty into mother's lap and get her sympathy and loving smile. This made up for the long tramp through snow and rain, in stormy weather and in sunshine, they felt the need.

Mother Gregory would watch them starting out and then she would recollect that they should be in school instead of trudging off to work, but it was a case of necessity. Teresa, or Peggy was a big girl now, thirteen years of age and a God-send to her mother. Mother Gregory had managed to keep her in school for she was getting along nicely with her studies and her teachers always praised her work, for Peggy was anxious to learn.

She did many things to help her mother and

still kept on going to school. She worked before school and after doing what she could, for Mother Gregory now had another little daughter which they named Millie. In spite of the fact that it meant more work, more care for their mother, yet, they welcomed the new baby just as though it did not mean any extra effort to provide the nourishing things Mother Gregory needed. Millie was a beautiful blue-eyed baby and every one loved her and were willing to make sacrifices in order to help their mother at this time.

We find five healthy children in the Gregory home, all going to their mother for advice and help, for they had learned to keep away from their father, who was seldom in a fit condition to be with them. So they cling to their mother who is never too busy or too tired to listen to their grievances. So to her they go for any advice and they tell her all about their hardships, for, mother like, she knows how real the trifles are to a child's mind and she metes out comfort here, a kind word there and tells them to be just in their play and at last they will be rewarded.

She always instilled in their young minds to be truthful in all things and to be honest, too. So by trying to be contented with the love of her children, she did not murmur or repine, for she felt the wrong done her by Johnny, yet, she tried not to show any dis-content in front of her little ones. She prayed and was secure in knowing she was led by a Guiding Hand.

She would often say, "Think pure thoughts, while you sojourn in this life, do a kindness when you can, speak well of everybody and your life will be a success on earth, and you will wear a halo around you, as the Master had, and you will become illuminated, and when your work on earth is over, your spirit will wend its way to the home of the blest."

It is not difficult to see what path Mother Greg-

ory was taking, for we realize fully that she was spiritual minded and so send out kind loving thoughts to her. But Mother Gregory was to have some bad news, for about noon the following day as the children were coming home from school, they ran home and told their mother that some men were carrying a man on a strtcher, and were coming toward the house.

Mother Gregory became uneasy and wondered whether it was her Johnny, as she went out the door she saw the men bringing their burden to the side porch. Poor Soul, she realized it was Johnny, and she cried out, "Johnny, Johnny, what happened to you, Johnny dear?" although she did not faint she almost collapsed, but her neighbors were there to help her in her trouble.

The doctor had been sent for and he arrived shortly after the men had brought Johnny home. He examined him thoroughly and found his leg broken in two places and two broken ribs on the right side.

The doctor said it may be necessary to amputate the leg as one break was below the knee and the ankle was broken too. But he promised to do all he could to save the leg, so making him comfortable as possible he left, saying he would be back the next morning.

After the doctor left, Mother Gregory wanted to hear what had happened, so, in spite of aches and agonizing pains Johnny told her how he was up at the face of the coal, getting ready for a shot, when the top coal fell on him, striking him sideways, burying him in the coal. He told her how he struggled from under it, getting his head and shoulders out, only to find that my right leg was fast and I could not get it loose.

Just then I heard the roof cracking, ready to fall again and as I tried to free my leg, I heard men talking but they were afraid to come any closer on account of the danger, and I called to them to throw

me an Ax, and they wanted to know what I would do with an ax, but I told them I wanted to chop my leg off, as it was fast, and I was in danger of getting killed any minute.

"This spurred the miners on and they came up to me and after working a half hour they got me out, and here I am." Well, Johnny dear," said Mother Gregory, "You have had a narrow escape from death, and although I know you are badly hurt, still, as you say, you might have been buried alive. What a blessing that your life was saved and you are spared to be with me and the bairns. Thank God for His mercies for it was surely the hand of God that protected you and we must give thanks."

Now Mother Gregory found it necessary to keep Peggy out of school to take care of the children and Mother Gregory gave all her attention to her husband. The next day the Doctor brought another doctor and they examined John thoroughly, and decided that it would not be necessary to amputate the leg.

That pleased John and Mother Gregory was overjoyed for she did not like the idea of Johnny losing his leg, although she realized it was bad enough as it was. Mother Gregory nursed him tenderly and left the rest to Peggy and her neighbors who did not forget the many kindnesses they had received. So while Johnny slept, Mother Gregory tried to snatch a little rest for she was worn out with constant watching, night and day.

Several weeks passed by and John was doing nicely, his leg in a cast, but the doctor told him "In another week, we may remove the cast and then you will feel some better." This was good news to all and Johnny was counting on using crutches and being able to help himself a little, thus relieving his faithful wife, who staid right with him, never leaving his side.

However the doctor did not remove the cast for two weeks as he told Johnny that it was risky,

for it was a compound fracture and we better go a little easy, and not take any chances of undoing what had been accomplished.

So when the cast was taken off we find John Gregory hobbling along on crutches and getting out among the men once more. Gradually, week after week, he tried to walk but it was three months before he was fit to go back to work again.

This was a hard blow for the Gregory family, as they had little if any money, but John belonged to a Union or society which paid a small amount each week, and the boys were working, so with the help of kind neighbors, they got through the storm.

Now as Johnny was back at work they felt a heavy load being lifted, for even though both boys worked steadily it took more than they could earn to keep things going. So we find many little bills to be met, besides a big Doctor bill to be met. But the Doctor told Mother Gregory not to worry about his bill, "for you can pay me a little at a time as you find you can spare it. But do not put yourselves about to pay me."

Such a man is a blessing to a community, for he had a great big heart that beat for others and indeed proved a God-send not only to the Gregory family, but to others as well. So Mother Gregory thanked him kindly, assuring him that he would get it in due time, for she was honest and sincere in her promise.

So now that her Johnny and boys were working they got along nicely, paying rent and now by another month she was ready to pay on the Doctor's bill for she wanted to get out of debt.

When, finally all debts were paid, Mother Gregory said, "Johnny, it is good to be free from debt, and I feel so much better and lighter hearted." She told him how she prayed the night before, giving thanks to our Heavenly Father for the bountiful goodness that we had received at his hands, praising Him from whom all blessings flow. This was

in truth the expression of Mother Gregory, for she was a good Soul.

The Gregory family were fareing very nicely, the men folks working, every one well, and Mother Gregory was able to keep the other children in school, and she always found time to make their clothes, thus keeping them neatly dressed. They attended church with her and were well liked in the community, for Mother and children were highly respected by all who knew them.

Three years had elapsed and our Bennie, the wanderlust, was now fifteen years old and still employed as mule-driver at the mines, but was receiving a little more money now. Harry was also a mule-driver and he, too, was getting more money, but it took all they made to feed so many and provide clothing and shoes.

Teresa, or Peggy was a bright, neat looking lass of seventeen years, rather tall for her age and womanly in her ways. She had received a letter from her Aunt Sarah in Philadelphia inviting her to spend a month with them.

Peggy showed her mother the letter and they talked about her visit. "But Teresa, I do not see how I can spare you just at this time, for you are the only one I have to rely on to take care of the children. I would love to see you go, dear, for you have done much to lighten my burden at all times. But a little later, we shall see what can be done about your trip, for I want you to know your cousins."

Peggy knew her mother would find some way to let her go to Philadelphia if it were at all possible. So being a sensible child, she did not fret about her disappointment but was cheerful and willing to wait till a little later.

Just ten days after the letter was received, a little stranger came to the Gregory home for Mother Gregory gave birth to another little blue-eyed

daughter with blond hair. This little girl was named Marie.

Never once did Peggy think of going for she was taken up with little Marie, and the others were just as glad to welcome their little sister and they took great interest in their mother and little sister whom they all loved. Peggy took her mother's place in the home and nursed her sister with loving care.

Peggy had her hands full, with one thing after another to look after, first getting up early to get her father and brothers off to work, then looking to the children's wants and getting them ready for school, so no wonder her mother said, "I do not see how I can spare you just now," and Peggy now realized what her mother meant.

Teresa though just past seventeen years of age was doing a woman's work and taking care of a family and tending to the house as well, so she deserves credit for what she has accomplished for her house was always in order and the children were clean and neat.

As soon as Mother Gregory felt able to take up her work, she said to Peggy, "my dear, I think we can manage to let you go to Philadelphia next week for a short stay. You have been so faithful and you deserve a little change. Amelia can do the errands for me and I am sure Benny and Harry will help me care for the baby in the evenings, so in this way we will manage somehow."

The following week Peggy takes her first trip to a large city, and no sooner had she gone than her mother missed her help, for no matter how the boys helped their mother, they did not fill their sister's place. Amelia would nurse the baby, Marie whom they all loved and adored, for she was a beautiful child who won her way into their hearts. All helped with the dishes and other work but yet, they all missed Peggy, who was the main stay in the home.

CHAPTER VIII

ARRIVAL OF PEGGY IN PHILADELPHIA

Peggy was met by Aunt Sarah and her Cousin and soon they were on a car bound for West Philadelphia. Here she was welcomed by her uncle and cousins, who were indeed glad to see her and they tried to make her feel at home.

Hardly a week passed before Peggy began to think she would like to be at home with her mother and children. Everything in the city was strange to her, although her cousins took her to many places of amusement—to Fairmount Park and to the zoo. Here she saw many animals and birds that she had never dreamed of, but yet she seemed to have a strong desire to be with her mother and the other children, so we find her thought is on the loved ones, for she always helped care for the children, also did a big part of the house-work.

After spending two weeks in Philadelphia, she told Aunt Sarah that she must be getting home to help her mother, but her aunt and cousins were not ready to let her go, for they had become attached to her and enjoyed having her smiling face in their midst, so Aunt Sarah persuaded her to spend another week with them.

Teresa had enjoyed going through the large department stores and was amazed at the wonderful display of goods. So Aunt Sarah asked her how she would like to stay in Philadelphia and work in one of these stores as a clerk. She said, "I think that would be delightful, but auntie dear, I am not used to that kind of work, and everything is strange to me, so I better go home."

That evening a lady named Elizabeth Small called to see them and this lady was a clerk in a large department store. So during the evening

Aunt Sarah told Miss Small that she would like Teresa to clerk in one of the department stores and asked her if she would be able to assist in getting a position for Peggy.

"Yes," said she, "I shall mention it to the head lady and I am certain that she will be pleased, for we are taking some new clerks on at this time." She told Peggy that she would surely-like it and they would be glad to see her stay in the city, for Peggy had made many friends while on her visit, who were loathe to see her leave.

Peggy thought of how much she would be able to help financially at home if she stayed and clerked here, so she decided to stay, if it would be satisfactory to her mother, whom she loved dearly and always tried to please in every way.

So having the consent of her dear mother, she took up her work with a light heart for she felt pleased to know she, too, could send her savings to her dear mother who needed it so much, for John Gregory was drinking heavily at this time.

A year passed by and Peggy is still clerking, saving as much as possible to help her mother defray the expenses of the home. She made many friends in the store and enjoyed her work, but she would think of her mother and her sisters and brother and coming across this beautiful poem by Francis Grey it was impressed on her mind, so she copied it and sent it to her mother.

"Truest of Pals, you've been to me,
Dear Mother of mine;
God's gift of love, you'll always be—
Dear Mother of mine;
When stars shine bright, I see through their light
The scene of memory;
When in days gone by, there were just you and I,
And you loved me so tenderly."

Philadelphia, Pa, June 15, 1887.

Dear Father and Mother—

How I long to see your dear faces again, how

are you all? I hope you are all well. When I think of you all and especially our dear little baby Marie, why, mother dear, it is all I can do from coming at once.

I shall leave on the early train next Friday morning and if nothing unforeseen happens I shall be in Mt. Carmel about five o'clock that evening.

Aunt Sarah, Uncle Joe and all my cousins are well, and send their love, but Uncle Joe wonders why father does not send Bennie down to start his apprenticeship as a stone-cutter, as he promised he would do so.

I am still employed as sales-lady at Scott's Department Store and like my work and have made many friends here. But, mother mine, I'm so anxious to see you that I can scarcely wait till Friday. Best love to all,

Your loving daughter,
Peggy.

This letter reached Mother Gregory the following day and she was indeed glad to get it and more so to know that in a few days Peggy would be home, even tho she would have to go away again. How glad she was! She told the children as soon as they got home that Peggy was coming to see them all. They showed their pleasure and wanted to get ready to meet their sister Peggy, but were told she would come Friday.

So happy were they to see their sister that they could not wait till the boys and father came home to tell them the good news so they met them and imparted the news before Mother Gregory had a chance to mention it. However she read the letter to them and they were just as pleased as the children were.

Mother Gregory and Johnny talked about Bennie going to learn his trade as John had promised to send Bennie to Philadelphia and be under the care of his uncle who was an expert stone-cutter.

John said to his wife, "Lassie, I dinna forget but we need Bennie's help just now, and he will not get much more than enough to pay his expenses, as an apprentice."

Mother Gregory told Johnny that she realized their situation, and assured him that she knew he meant well and fully intended to send Bennie to learn his trade, so she said, "If it is satisfactory to you, Johnny, we will manage to get along some how. We must trust in God who has led us through many stormy battles. Yes, John I am sure the way will be opened which will lead us upward, though hidden forces in nature shall lend us strength."

I am fully convinced of the Father who says, "Thy book and word shall never tire on the way, nor crave rest by the way-side, but be always in the refreshing sunlight of Spirit."

Your sorrows shall be turned from bitter, to sweet; and out of your past agonies shall grow the golden flowers for your future crown. Your waiting shall not be long, nor your watching for many days. The light of another world shall be upon thee and thy brow and features shall be as a glorious halo."

Such was the answer that Mother Gregory gave her husband, for she wanted Bennie to get started at his apprenticeship, yet she was about heart-broken to think of him away from his mother for these two souls were very dear to one another. But like a true mother she would not let her love stand as a stumbling block in the way of his progress.

So she made up her mind to stifle her feelings and when the time came to make the decision she would send him away with the thought that she would still guide him and watch over him, even though distance should separate them. She felt that she could lead him gently, and impress him from day to day.

Peggy arrived on time and her brothers and sisters were at the depot to meet her and such a wel-

come as she received! Such demonstrations of affection as they showered her with, and then hastened toward home where her dear mother was anxiously waiting her coming. When Peggy spied her mother at the gate she ran to her and was clasped in her arms in a loving embrace. She told her mother she would not leave her again and this made Mother Gregory unable to restrain the tears, as she kissed her first born.

Father Gregory was out when Peggy arrived so she did not get to see him till late that night, but he, too, welcomed Peggy and kissed her fondly, for with all his shortcomings, he was indeed fond of his family.

Peggy did not lose any time in taking up the work, for she knew her dear mother had been burdened with many cares and needed a little rest. Mother Gregory had full confidence in Peggy's ability to manage and so she shook off all responsibility and relaxed.

Bennie and Peggy had many heart to heart talks about Philadelphia and the people she had met while at Aunt Sarah's. He was anxious to hear all these things for he was to go soon and wanted to know just how things were in a large city, for he had no idea of city life. His career embraced mining towns, so he had had very little opportunity to know.

Peggy was twenty years old and Bennie was eighteen, and he was anxious to learn his trade, and naturally he wanted his father to sanction his going. He did not have to wait long for shortly afterward, his father said, "Bennie, I am going to send you to Philadelphia, to Uncle Joe who will see that you get placed as a stone-cutter's apprentice. I want you to be a good boy and take heed to what your uncle may say, and I am sure you will get along allright, my boy."

Bennie assured his father that he would apply himself and wanted to start at once, for he displayed

a restless spirit, for he was like his father in this respect. On pay-day the boys handed their money over to their mother just as they did when picking slate at the tippie.

She told Bennie that his father had consented to letting him start for Philadelphia on the following Monday and this was Saturday evening. So she asked Bennie to stay with the others while she and Peggy would go to town to get some things which she felt he should need to have with him when he went away.

So Bennie, Harry and Amelia were left in charge of the house while mother and Peggy went shopping. Bennie was so glad to think he was indeed going so soon, for he was restless. It did not take Mother Gregory long to get what she wanted, for she knew exactly what was needed to complete Bennie's ward-robe, and after getting some candy and fruit they returned.

The next morning we find Mother Gregory and all her children at church but not Johnny, for he seldom attended church. Mother Gregory was entirely different she wanted to bring the children up in the Christian Faith, and she wanted them to come in touch with good thinking people, and she believed they had a chance to do so if they attended church.

Amelia staid home as she wanted to surprise her mother. She busied herself and like a good little house-keeper she had dinner just about ready to serve when church was out and surely Mother Gregory appreciated this thoughtfulness on the part of her child. But Mother Gregory had taught her children to be useful little men and women, and they liked to help. Nothing made them happier than to please the mother whom they all loved and adored.

This was Bennie's farewell day and everyone tried to show him how much they loved him and Mother Gregory would miss him more than all the

others, for she knew his weakness lay in being too easily influenced by his associates. So she spent an hour with him on Sunday night, telling him how she trusted in him, how she prayed for his guidance along the path of right at all times and wanted him to know she was praying and sending her thought of helpfulness to him every day, no matter where he might be. She asked him to read a part of a chapter in the bible every night and pray for strength, not forgetting to thank God for all His blessings.

The next morning, Monday, Bennie was to leave on the early train for Philadelphia and his mother and the children were with him to see him off. As the train was about due, Bennie threw his arms around his mother and kissed her affectionately then he kissed his sisters and brothers good-bye; but he turned again to his mother and folded her in his strong arms kissing her over and over, saying, I shall write often, mother dear, and I will not forget what you told me, dear. So Mother Gregory placed a little Bible in his hands and he kissed her, saying, "I'll not forget, mother."

She implored him to be guided by what the Master says, "and each night I will pray to our Loving Father to protect you from the snares and pitfalls of this wicked world and lead you on to higher and nobler thoughts and deeds."

"Write as often as you can, my boy as I shall be glad to hear about your associates and your work." So she kissed him and said, "God be with you, my boy and bless you." Bennie jumped on the train waving a fond good-bye to those he loved as the train pulled out of the depot, and Bennie is on his way to Philadelphia.

Bennie, (Our Wanderlust), just a little more than eighteen years of age becomes a wanderer, roving the face of the United States, never satisfied for any length of time, always restless and never contented to settle down.

Bennie took his mother's Bible and placed it tenderly in his suit-case remembering her parting admonition and resolved to do as she requested. We see a dear attachment between mother and eldest son, there is something akin to Divine Love.

Arriving in Philadelphia, Bennie was met by his cousins, who soon had him on a car bound for West Philadelphia. Where he was given a warm welcome by Aunt Sarah who kissed him and made him feel at home at once. Uncle Joe too, was glad to see him and told Bennie to feel at home, as they counted him one of the house-hold.

Bennie's uncle was fore-man in charge of the stone-cutters, both in the yard and on different contracts. So he had asked John Gregory to send Bennie to him and he would get him started at stone cutting, for he had taken a liking to Bennie, but more from attractiveness. There was something about Bennie that attracted people to him, shall we call it magnetism? But such was the case.

Bennie was at once installed in the family and by the next Monday we find him starting to work out a four year's apprenticeship. His apron on, he was given chisels and a wooden mallet. His uncle and some other journeymen showed him how to start. He was given a medium hard stone at first, so he could not possibly knock off any corners or spoil it.

Bennie was interested in his work, and made great progress during his first six months. He wrote home every week, and his mother was always prompt in answering, for there was an attachment of a Divine nature between these two souls.

During these six months Peggy had met a young Englishman, named Arthur Thomas who was very friendly and kind to her. This friendship became an attachment, which ripened into love. Now Peggy was talking of going back to her work as clerk in the Department Store in Philadelphia, but her mother persuaded her to wait a little longer, as

she told her she wanted her to be with her for a month or so.

Peggy understood just what her mother meant, for in about a month, Mother Gregory gave birth to a son whom they called Clyde.

Mother and baby were doing nicely, Peggy took charge of the house, while Amelia, now full grown was a help to Peggy. As soon as Mother Gregory was able to take charge again, Peggy left Amelia to help her mother, and started for Philadelphia, where she worked for the next four months.

Mother Gregory, with the help of the girls got along nicely, and Harry was always willing to do anything to save his mother whom he dearly loved. The Gregory family were willing helpers for they had been brought up to help one another and so we find the boys just as capable about the house as the girls were.

Bennie, (Our Wanderer) was doing nicely at his work and his father received splendid reports concerning his progress. Peggy had written her mother telling her she would be home in November as she wanted to get ready to be married the later part of December. This was the time they had set before she went away.

There are now seven children in the Gregory family, five of them at home and Peggy coming in a short time, only to leave again and establish a home of her own. Bennie would be gone for a long time as he still had three years to serve as an apprentice.

Mother Gregory was anxious to have things nice for Peggy's home-coming and she began making preparations for the wedding which was to be held in the home, she engaged a dressmaker to help them with the sewing and for days after Peggy came home they were busy as bees. Such happy days mother and daughter spent together, as they went on with the preparations.

John Gregory was working steadily and doing

pretty well, although he was drinking some but not so much as heretofore. He did not favor this marriage at this time, for he did not think Teresa should be in such a hurry. But all he said, was of no avail and preparations went on.

Bennie came home to see Peggy married, so on December twenty-fourth, Teresa and Arthur Thomas were quietly married by the Presbyterian minister, in the presence of the family and some close friends and neighbors.

Peggy goes to house-keeping shortly afterwards, but she does not go out of the neighborhood to live. She, being of a loving and motherly disposition soon had her home very homelike and her husband appreciated everything she did for him.

Peggy, leaving the home shelter, for a home of her own, brings Amelia to the front as mother's right hand helper. She is a pleasant girl, willing to do all she can, has a kind word and a smile for all, quite capable in every way; yet she can not fill Peggy's place in the home. Peggy had the knack of doing things and it seemed second nature for her to accomplish the many things she found to do.

CHAPTER IX

"HER GUIDING VOICE"

About a week after Peggy's marriage, Bennie returns to Philadelphia, to finish his apprenticeship. His mother and children went to the depot to see him off and fond farewells were exchanged and Mother Gregory watched him as the train sped on, carrying her boy away from her once more.

She had many pleasant talks with him and she had prayed and asked for Divine Guidance for Bennie as he went on his way, asking that her boy be led along the right path. She told Bennie to Heed the Voice, and she would impress him when she was near, if he would heed and pray fervently and from the heart.

She repeated a part of a prayer as he listened very attentively—

"I am O Soul, thy good and loving thought, thy good works, and thy good laws, thy angel and thy guide, that thy soul may re-unite with spirit which brings the light within itself."

"Don't you think, Bennie, my boy, she said with tears in her eyes, don't you think this is far better than being an aimless wanderer in the dark? For though the morning of our lives have been dark, and we have had trials and tribulations to contend with, we must then let the sunset of our lives be glorious, and an ornament to this earthly life and an honor to the heavenly one. And do you know, Bennie, I believe we should always take heed to the words of The Master—"

"He that dwelleth in the secret places of the most high, shall abide in the shadow of the Almighty." How grand, Bennie, is this promise and how much gratification we receive from it!

“Yes, mother dear, I shall always remember the advice you have given me.” So we find this loving soul giving kind suggestion to her son before he leaves to take up his work again in Philadelphia.

So Bennie leaves and in a few hours he is back at Aunt Sarah’s, where he finds a warm welcome, for they look upon Bennie as one of the family. The next morning Bennie starts to work cutting stone as he was anxious to finish his apprenticeship. He was doing nicely and showed great skill, for he had done some of the most difficult pieces of work, works of art, in fact he had done better than some of the older hands.

Bennie was thinking of pleasing his dear mother whom he had just left, also of his uncle and aunt who loved him as their own child. He was anxious to make progress and as he was faithful and industrious he made great strides in his work.

Seldom a night passed that Bennie did not read his Bible, as he had promised to do. He gained much from its pages and he was encouraged to go on, for he was conscious that his dear mother was thinking of him and sending out a helpful thought to him, and he heeded Her Guiding Voice, for such it was.

Teresa did not neglect her mother, even though she had a home of her own to see to. O no, she would come over to help her mother whenever she could find time and her visits and help were indeed appreciated. Mother Gregory had less trouble now with the children for some of them were able to help themselves and also to help care for the younger ones.

Bennie wrote home regularly and informed his mother of his progress. He attended school at night, taking up drawing. Here he learned to make plans for construction work—of buildings—to make forms and figures, also lettering in stone. He was ambitious and had done well with marble cutting and also in polishing granite. So now that

his time is drawing to a close he is anxious to take up stone-setting in addition to stone-cutting. He was able to do so and accomplished both arts with credit to himself as well as to his uncle, who was indeed proud of Bennie.

Having completed his apprenticeship, Bennie starts to work as a journeymen. He starts to cut out designs for the archways for the Market Street approach on the Public Buildings in Philadelphia.

He spent night after night pondering how he could get the best results, he made wooden designs so he would see just how it would look when complete in stone. As the days went by, Bennie could see his work take form and the other stone cutters would come to see how Bennie was getting along. They were amazed and marvelled at the work done by a mere boy, for many of them were old hands at the work. They were pleased to have Bennie as an associate and co-worker, for they looked upon him as a genius.

Although Bennie attended school at night, he did not neglect to write to his mother. To her he would open up his soul, and she was delighted to hear that her Bennie was keeping his promise and she in turn would guide him, impressing him to tread the right paths. But while Mother Gregory had good reports from her boy in Philadelphia, she had things to grieve over at home. Her husband had fallen into his old habit and was drinking to excess.

So Mother Gregory prays ardently to The Infinite One to lead her Johnny to a better light and understanding of life, also for the absent son, who she knew had a like weakness. So this dear Soul sends out her prayer that these dear ones be led aright and be guided from the snares and pitfalls that surround them. She implored The Loving Father to bless and protect all her children and bring Johnny to a plane where he would see the wrong he was committing from day to day.

At night she and her children would gather around the table and she would read a passage of scripture and explain it to them thus instructing them from day to day. Ever ready to help them and invoke good clean thoughts in their minds leading them on to higher and nobler thoughts and deeds.

The children would then retire and Mother Gregory would sit and plan what to do to make her Johnny see his error. Everything quiet, this dear Soul pours out her heart to God in prayer, asking for guidance from the source of all Wisdom, to influence her Johnny to do right. To be a kind father and husband and leave off drinking and stay at home with his family was her heart's desire. She then sang a hymn.

Lead us O Father in the paths of peace,
Without Thy Guiding Hand we go astray,
And doubts appal, and sorrows still increase;
Lead us through Thee, The true and living way.

Lead us O Father, in the paths of right,
Blindly we stumble when we walk alone;
Involved in shadows of a darksome night,
Only with Thee we journey safely on."

As she sang this favorite hymn, Johnny came in. He came home early that night and how Mother Gregory was lifted up to think that he had been led home in answer to her prayer, and she felt it was the Hand of God which sent him to her. So she told him how glad she was and also how she had asked God to show him the way.

So she welcomed Johnny and asked him to sit down and talk to her. She poured out her thoughts to him imploring him to abandon his old haunts and instead of going out with his associates, to stay home and quietly send out good thoughts to them and in that way help them. She told him how much good he could do, by thinking helpful thoughts and sending them out on the atmosphere,

thus relieving the distress and sow seeds of kindness whenever he could. How she pleaded with him, telling him he would reap the harvest fourfold and assuring him they would all be so happy.

But Johnny did not pay any attention to her pleading, he just sneered at this advice of his loving wife, who loved him in spite of his shortcomings and tried to have him live a God-like life. Her words fell on barren soil so did not do the good they would have accomplished if he had responded. So she was truly sorry that she had spoken to him about her desire, at this time, for she was heartbroken to hear the slurs and sneers he uttered about church people, as he termed them.

How happy this dear Soul would be if Johnny would stop drinking, John Gregory was a kind loving soul when in his natural state. But just as soon as he indulged in drink, his other-wise good senses left him and he was a different man entirely, and his children were afraid of him and kept out of his way.

For two years Mother Gregory had battled faithfully on through storms and hardships, for it took close economy to keep things moving, while Johnny kept drinking and gambling. Bennie was doing well and sent his mother some of his earnings and Harry was faithful and true to his mother. So with the help of her two sons, mother managed her household.

Peggy was blessed with a little son after nearly three years of married life. How Mother Gregory planned and helped her daughter in this trial. A dear little blue-eyed boy with blond hair was added to the home. What a proud father was Arthur Thomas! And now Mother Gregory is Grand-Ma Gregory. All the children were glad to have a little nephew. Mother and son were doing nicely and mother Gregory did all she could to help Peggy although she had much to do at home.

Amelia would go over and nurse the baby which

they named Arthur after his father. For Arthur was fond of his son and loved him dearly as they were drawn close to one another and there seemed to be perfect harmony there and father and son expressed their love as time went on.

Bennie was elated to hear of Peggy being a mother for now he was Uncle Bennie. He wrote his sister a loving letter telling her how glad he was that she had a little boy of her own and hoped they were both getting along nicely. He kept in close touch with Peggy for he was anxious to hear about little Arthur. Many little remembrances found their way to the Thomas home from Uncle Bennie, for he loved children. In fact all the Gregory family were proud of the new baby and they, too, gave all they could.

Bennie continued to succeed with his work and had established quite a reputation for himself along that line. He seemed to have a certain amount of Intuition which led him on to understanding and knowledge.

Bennie had been in Philadelphia about six years and had made many friends. About this time, his uncle told him that work was getting very scarce, few if any orders were coming in, and unless something turned up in the meantime, they were going to lay off several stone-cutters, at the end of the month.

"Yes, I know things look dull, Uncle Joe, and as I was the last man employed, I shall not be surprised to be the first one laid off. His uncle told him he was sorry to have to do it, but that was the rule of the Union, but said, "Do not worry, Bennie, we shall see later."

However it was only a week later when Bennie was notified that he should come to the office and get his money as work was scarce and it fell to his lot to go first. That was the ruling of the organization, so Bennie did not feel slighted. He gathered his tools, went to the office and got his money. In

a little while he was on the street car bound for home.

Seeing his tools, Aunt Sarah asked him what was wrong? He told her he had been laid off but that he would stay in Philadelphia the rest of the week, then he would go home and see his folks. So Aunt Sarah tried to console him by saying he needed a rest and after he had had a little visit at Mt. Carmel, why perhaps things would be different and he would be put on again, for she knew he was an expert cutter and well liked by his fellow workers.

On Monday morning, having said good-bye to his associates and to his cousins, Uncle Joe and Aunt Sarah he started for home, to see the one he loved more than all others—his dear mother. He had not sent any word of his coming, so they were all pleasantly surprised to see him, but Mother Gregory wondered what was the matter. He assured her there was nothing the matter, that he had just dropped in to see them and spend a few days with her.

That night he told her that he had been laid off on account of shortage of orders. "So, mother dear, here I am, and here I am going to stay for a while at least." "Bennie, dear I am glad to have you and if you could find suitable work here I would like it still better, for I always feel better to have you near me, my boy."

"Well, mother, said Bennie, I don't suppose there is anything to do in my line of work, but suppose I ask father about working with him." "I do not like the idea of you going back to the mines, Bennie, but if you think best, why, my boy, I shall be satisfied until your work picks up again."

John Gregory was surprised to see Bennie but was glad to have him home again. Bennie told how he had been laid off, as he was the last man taken on, so he was the first laid off. He said he took this opportunity to pay them a visit, and was assured

that he was always welcome there. So they drifted on from one subject to another, till Bennie asked his father what he thought about him working at the mines till his work would pick up a little.

As there was nothing at all to do in his line at that time, John Gregory told him he could put him on with him in a few days. So Bennie was restless and wanted to get to work once more.

Mother Gregory said nothing, she was so happy to have Bennie with her. Amelia had hurried off to tell Peggy that Bennie was home, so Peggy got ready and started for home with baby Arthur.

So Peggy surprises Bennie, for he knew nothing of Amelia's going to tell of his arrival. He took sister and nephew in his arms and kissed them over and over again, while tears of joy flowed over his cheeks. This was Peggy and her baby, whom he was so anxious to see. "You are looking fine, Peggy, and what a beautiful child!" Arthur was indeed a fine healthy boy and the pride of them all, not forgetting the father.

Bennie spent a little time in his sister's home each day, for he was in love with his nephew and always did like Peggy who had meant so much to him in their childhood days. In about a week, Bennie goes to the mines as his father now has a chance to put him on. Mother Gregory would often say to him, "Bennie, my boy, be very careful, I did not want you to go back to the mines, but it seems there is nothing else, just now. I shall ask God to protect you from all danger and I have faith that my prayer will be answered."

"Do not worry, I shall be very careful and stay close to father, and he is aware of the danger that lurks around the mine, mother."

Often while at work Bennie seemed to hear his mother's guiding voice- warning him, and reminding him to be careful. He would hear Her Guiding Voice speaking as from the Silence, and he would

feel himself lifted up as though some unseen hand had protected him from danger.

The Voice seemed to be inspiring him on—to be leading him in the right direction, then he would meditate and he would remember that it was his dear mother sending him her helpful thoughts and ever leading him aright, and he made up his mind to always heed Her Voice.

One evening as he came in from work he told his mother how he heard her talking to him, warning him of danger and leading him safely on. He told how he felt her presence and while he knew she was not there in the flesh, she was present in spirit.

“Well, Bennie dear, “I am always praying to God, to safeguard you from dangers and as I told you so often, I have faith that my prayers will be answered.” Having that faith in One who knoweth and doeth all things well, I have confidence that they will lead you in the right way and into all truth.”

You will not remain at the mines very long, Bennie, for I feel there are opportunities, grand opportunities ahead for you, my boy, and when these present themselves, be ready to grasp them. I shall quote you a little poem I read on opportunities which appealed to me very much, Bennie.”

Opportunities

Master of destinies am I:
Fame, love and fortune on my footsteps wait.
Cities and fields I walk; I penetrate
Deserts and fields remote, and, passing by
Hovel and mart and palace, soon or late
I knock unbidden once at every gate;
If sleeping, wake; if feasting, rise before
I turn away. It is the hour of fate.
And they who follow me reach every state
Mortals desire, and conquer every foe.
Save death; but those who doubt or hesitate,
Condemned to failure, penury and woe;
Seek me in vain and uselessly implore—
I answer not, and I return no more.

John J. Ingalls.

CHAPTER X

MOTHER GREGORY'S INTUITION

Mother Gregory was inspired by an unseen force from an unseen world—call it Intuition, Divine Inspiration, or whatever you may deem to term it, but what ever it was it came in the sense of truth and justice.

Personally, I term it Intuition, Divine Inspiration, the source of all goodness, which becomes the light of truth, understanding, knowledge and wisdom. As we follow the life of this noble hearted soul, we find her always doing kind acts, reaching out the hand of motherly love to those in need—the hand of friendship.

Busy though she was, she would always find time to visit the sick, and as she had such a pleasing personality and such good intentions, they were ever glad to see her come. She would talk to the afflicted ones and cheer them as well as instill them with courage to bear their affliction. There was a something about Mother Gregory that everyone felt who came in close touch with her, for she radiated goodness and people always felt better for her having been in their midst.

So we readily see why people welcomed her, they felt this attractiveness, shall we call it magnetism? Or shall we say she had a magnetic power to sway and inspire. Her very presence was uplifting to those who came in contact with her. Her tread as she walked was sweeter than music to most people—her voice like music to the ear, it swayed her hearers to listen, for she possessed an attractiveness which inspired the minds of her neighbors, her family and all who came in contact with her.

Truth from her lips prevailed with double sway,
And those who came to scoff, remained to pray.

Mother Gregory was invested with a power within her Soul, which was a real benediction to those who came in her presence and they were glad to be near her to hear her voice, for this loving soul had planted the right kind of seeds in her soul and these were bringing forth fruit of a loving truth.

Thus Bennie, her boy, our wanderer, was attracted to his mother by this magnet—this soul affinity—"Her Guiding Voice," leading him on along the paths of duty, encouraging and protecting him from un-foreseen dangers in the mines, and he begins to realize that it is Her Guiding Voice that is ever present and speaks in the Silence, of her intense motherly love she is endeavoring to bestow upon him.

At this time, while at home he decides to always heed his mother's advice, for she often said, "Bennie, my boy, take heed to what I say, for it is for your benefit and welfare." So Bennie promised her he would not let anything come into his life that would lead him away from his mother's precepts.

He continues to work in the mines with his father and closely allied in his love to his mother. He makes new friends and associates, men of a different type are getting into his surroundings, men who are not fit associates for Bennie. These men would tend to lead him away from his mother's influence and she would not be pleased to know of their friendship and influence over her boy. Such associates would degrade and lower him in the estimation of the world.

Still Bennie went on in this path which was leading him away from his duty, his promise to his mother, but it seems as though he was obsessed by this influence and he was not strong enough to refuse their bidding, so is drawn farther into their clutches. Had he been more positive in nature, he would have offset their plans by simply saying, "No,

it can not be. It shall not be. My mother would not like me to do it and I must not hurt that dear soul who loves me so deeply."

But it was not to be, for Bennie was led deeper and deeper into the mire, he was acquiring a liking for intoxicants, and consequently his associates would gather around him and the time would slip around so quickly, that before he was aware of it, it would be very late, before Bennie would get home. John Gregory would be in the same company, drinking and gambling and often getting into drunken brawls and no end of trouble.

Bennie tried to hide this from his mother, as he knew she would worry if she knew he was drinking. We pity Bennie, for he had this weakness, like his father, and neither of them had a will-power strong enough to overcome this weakness, so we pity, rather than censure.

In quiet moments, in his room alone, he would meditate on what he was doing, and what effect it would have on his dear mother, whom he knew had had experience enough to know what drink leads a man to do. How it changes ones whole outlook on life. He knew this blow would break her heart and he was indeed sad and sore distressed to think how he had broken his promise to her, not to be led astray.

How he said he would heed Her Guiding Voice and how had he kept that promise? He could not resist the daily temptations, so had yielded to the pleadings of those who led him away from his mother's influence. He was touched to the heart, and now resolved to do as his dear mother, pray to the All wise heavenly Father for help to tread in the path that would please his mother.

That night, when he came home from work he said, "Mother, dear, I am not going out tonight, but will spend the evening with you." You can imagine how happy Mother Gregory was to hear this, how her face lit up and she smiled as she utter-

ed a silent prayer for this blessing. After her day's work was done, mother and son enjoyed a quiet talk and then Bennie realized that he had not hidden one thing from her, for she knew how he had acted and she pitied him from the bottom of her heart.

Mother Gregory tried to impress many good thoughts on his mind, she opened her soul and let her love express itself for her erring boy. He listened to her sweet voice and it soothed him somewhat, but he knew he had sinned and his conscience hurt him. She spoke of how she had planned for his future, what grand things were to be his if he were only strong enough to break away from all his old associates and lead a better life.

After a little while, Bennie went to his room, not to bed or to sleep, for his mother had shown him how far he had strayed and he wanted to be alone with his conscience. He feels he must have aid from some unseen source if he is to turn over a new leaf. He implores the Guiding Hand that rules the Universe to help him, and he knows his mother will aid him in this, his hour of need, and we sympathize with him. So kneeling by his bed he opened his heart to God, from whom all blessings flow, to guard and protect him from all evil influences—to show him which way to go, bless his associates and turn them into better channels and ways of living. He asked for Divine blessings to fall upon his dear mother, and father and all the family, he prayed for the sick and afflicted and for the upliftment of the human family.

While in this frame of mind, he went back to his childhood days, when his mother used to sing to them after her prayer at the close of day. He recalled part of a hymn which appealed to him then as it did now.

“Other refuge I have none,
Hangs my helpless soul on Thee;
Leave, O leave me not alone

Still support and comfort me;
All my trust on Thee is stayed;
All my help from Thee I bring.
Cover my defenseless head
With the shadow of Thy wing."

He arose and sat on the side of his bed, then he felt an influence that seemed to lift him up for he had committed himself into the care and keeping of the Infinite One and was now ready to start anew. The next morning, Bennie went to work with a lighter heart and all went smoothly that day and he was encouraged to go on he had worked in the mine before and things were not new to him, even though he had been away more than six years.

He is now twenty-eight years of age, a fine well built man, healthy and robust. He is a good help to his father and these two get along splendidly at work.

About this time Peggy is blessed with another baby boy whom they named Bennie, after her brother Bennie, our wanderlust. This pleased Bennie for he loved children. Amelia was now planning to visit Aunt Sarah and she told her mother that if she liked Philadelphia, she would get work there and stay awhile.

Being eighteen, Amelia felt that she would like to have some of the things that other girls of her age enjoyed. She had never been away from home, only to her sister's home and that seemed like being home, for they lived in the same town. She told her mother that Millie was now old enough to help and each could do a little toward helping and everything would be all right. I feel you will not miss me very much, at least I hope not.

For a week Amelia was busy getting ready for her trip, Peggy would come over and they would sew and fix over things that Amelia would need. The baby was a fine fellow and Peggy was feeling fine. She was glad that Amelia was getting to go,

for she remembered how she planned, when she took her trip to Philadelphia.

So all being ready, Amelia bids them all good-bye and she is on her way to the city. Here she was met by Aunt Sarah who was glad to see her and soon they were on the car bound for West Philadelphia. Uncle Joe and her cousins too, were glad to have her stay with them, for they all liked Peggy and Bennie.

The Monday following Amelia's departure, John Gregory had gone to town and as he always found associates who were ready to take a drink, we find him drinking to excess, in fact, he had gotten mixed up in an argument which resulted in a fight. A man named Dave Crawford, who had been friendly with John Gregory for a number of years was also in a drunken state and one word brought another, till it ended in a fight. Dave told John that he could lick him or any of his sons. Although John was a much older man than Dave, yet they kept up the quarrel and blows fell right and left. John Gregory was aroused, and he determined to give Dave all that he wanted.

He started for home, angry and all worked up, for he was very drunk or he would not have allowed himself to get into such a mess. So he was heard coming, long before he reached the house, for he was uttering threats, telling what he would do to Dave Crawford.

On entering the house he called his wife, ordering her to come downstairs she had not been asleep, for she was uneasy as long as Johnny was out. So she came down and Johnny said, "Call Bennie, and tell him I want to talk to him." She did as requested for she knew Johnny was in no mood to argue with in his present state.

She told Bennie to get up and dress for your father wants to see you, so lose no time in coming for he is in a quarrelsome mood, Bennie. He was down in a few minutes and his father told him that

he had had a few words with Dave Crawford, and it had ended in a quarrel. He told how he was compelled to protect himself by using his fists.

Now Bennie, said his father, "Dave said, I can lick you or any of your sons. But I think I can give him all he is looking for, even if I am much older. But if you care to take my place, why then, I shall go with you."

Poor Mother Gregory, sat there silently listening to this conversation afraid to speak, but tried to attract Bennie's attention so that he would refuse to go, but failed. So she is anxiously awaiting the outcome.

"Well Father, Dave Crawford used to be friendly to us, but if he has insinuated that we are cowards, why, I think I can favor him with all the trouble he is looking for." John Gregory laughed and gloried in his son's assertions.

Bennie got fully dressed and said, "Father, I'm ready, come on." So Bennie and John Gregory start out for the Crawford home. Bennie wanted to know if he had said he could lick John Gregory or any of his sons?

Dave said, "Yes, Bennie, I said it and mean it, too." "Alright Dave, here is where we decide it, and now." So they arranged for backers, two for each side, and fight it out for a finish, without gloves.

THE FIGHT FOR SUPREMACY.

The fight was on, in the first round there seemed to be no advantage gained on either side, both were cut and bruised and the blood flowed freely from both faces. Round two was in Bennies favor, as he punched Dave over the right eye, which caused him to stagger, from loss of sight, and would have been defeated, but time was called.

Round three found Dave fighting gamely for he had rallied. Bennie sparring for a chance and defending himself, for he wanted to wear Dave out, and then give him the licking he deserved. This

round was a tie, but Dave was wearing out, while Bennie was reserving his strength.

Round Four. Dave came up, swinging an upper cut for Bennie, but Bennie ducked, and caught Dave with a left swing, striking him on the nose, breaking it. Dave called for mercy, as he knew he was done. He admitted he had had enough, but Bennie said, "If you have not had enough, why I can give you more. Another thing, Dave, do you still think you can lick my Father or any of his sons?"

"No, Bennie, I'll take that back, and let us be friends, always friends." And ever afterward, John Gregory and his boys were on friendly terms with Dave. For Crawford had learned a lesson.

Mother Gregory did not want Bennie to go, for she had tried to get him to say, no, but of course Bennie felt that if he did not go, his father as well as his associates would sneer at him and never cease reminding him of it. He tried to explain to his mother, afterwards, that it was best for him to go, as everything was settled now.

John Gregory always liked Bennie, but now that he had supported him in the fight, he was looked upon as an honored member of the family as far as his father was concerned there was no one like Bennie.

Night after night John Gregory was out drinking and carousing. While we find it all the harder now for Bennie to hold fast to his resolve, not to be led astray by his associates. For this gave them a chance to praise his pluck.

So he drifted away from his intentions, staid out late drinking and getting into evil conditions, and his poor mother was just about heart-broken to see him go back to his old ways.

CHAPTER XI

BENNIE LEAVES HOME

We have always known that there are some people who have a power of influence over others. Such was the case of mother and son, for as soon as Bennie started to drink again, Mother Gregory determined to use her influence to make him treat her as he should, also to lead a better life and so have the respect of the people in the community.

She persuaded him to stay at home night after night, and if he did go out, he was always in touch with his mother, through Her Guiding Voice, and to his credit he made this assertion to her, so she knew that she could reach him, even tho he was out among his friends.

Thus this kind, noble soul was influencing him to do good, to live a just and upright life. She prayed to God to lead her boy along the straight and narrow path and often repeated this inspired poem for his benefit.

“Spirit guiding us aright,
Spirit making darkness light,
Spirit of resistless might;
Hear us, Guiding Spirit.

All our evil passions kill,
Bend aright our stubborn will,
Though we grieve Thee, be patient still;
Guiding Spirit, hear us.

Come to raise us when we fall,
And when snares our Soul enthrall,
Lead us back by Thy gentle call,
Guiding Spirit, hear us.

Keep us in the narrow path,
Warn us when we go astray,
Plead within us when we pray;
Guiding Spirit, hear us.”

What a beautiful thought to send out on the etheric wave to the mind of her boy! Should he be receptive enough to receive it clearly, and abide by it, it would be a God-send to him, and would make his mother the happiest woman in all the world.

Bennie was talking of leaving home now for a while as he had word from his uncle several times, saying there were openings at his work and he would like Bennie to come back to work, as he knew Mother Gregory did not like to have him at the mines. For a couple of years Bennie had paid no attention to these calls, for he did not like the idea of leaving his mother.

Mother Gregory was determined to do all in her power to lead him into channels that would be beneficial to him, to make it easier for him to resist the temptations of his associates, and thus feel more sure of him being able to say, "No, at the right time and place. She would not willingly let him go until these things were accomplished, and she told him so. She wanted to feel that he would not start to drink again, for she feared this evil, even though Bennie was now thirty-three years of age.

Amelia had remained in Philadelphia as she thought of doing. She had found work in a department store and had been working two years. Like Peggy, she always thought of her mother and the rest of the family and wrote regularly, telling all about her work and the kindness shown her in Aunt Sarah's home, for she was looked upon as one of the family. She sent many little tokens of love to her dear mother and the younger children, who rather looked for something from sister Amelia.

Millie now takes charge of most of the work at home. There is not so much to do as when Peggy was left in charge. But Millie is a willing worker and has shown her ability in many ways al-

though but a mere child in years. Marie and Clyde are attached to each other thus making their care much easier and Harry is a good big brother who knows how to help make things go right.

Harry labored on at the mine, saying very little, but doing all in his power to help his mother. He understood how she grieved because of John Gregory and Bennie, especially if they were drinking. Harry often talked to Bennie and tried to make him see how he was hurting the one who loved him most of all her children.

Harry was a model son, using good sense and judgement in all things. He would willingly help in any way to have harmony at home. He attended Sunday School and Church with his mother and often he would go off by himself and open his heart to God asking that Bennie be made to see his error, and respond to his mother's influence. He knew that Bennie was closely attached to his mother, that she loved him with a different love, than the others. This did not make Harry jealous, O, no, he felt that Bennie needed all the love his mother could bestow upon him.

Again the question arises as to Bennie's leaving home, this time Bennie asks his mother if she is now satisfied to have him go back to Philadelphia? He said, "Mother dear, I don't want you to worry about me, I am fully determined to leave drink alone and lead a better life. I shall always think of your loving advice and know you have my welfare at heart."

He went on to tell her how he appreciated her interest and how he would try to repay her for all her loving kindness and would indeed lead a better life hereafter. Mother Gregory walked over to him, putting her arms around him she kissed him and said, "Bennie, I love all my children, but there is something that draws us together, you need me and I need you, also."

Then she gave her consent to have him go away,

but told him to wait a week longer, as she had just received a letter from Aunt Sarah, saying "Joe wanted to visit them for a few days. So that in case you go could go back with him, if you are ready to do so." Bennie thought that would be satisfactory to all concerned and said "he would not think of going away if Cousin Joe is coming.

"You know mother, my cousins were very good to me during my stay with them and Aunt Sarah was just like a mother to me, dear. Uncle Joe was kindness itself and I want to treat Cousin Joe just as well as I can when he comes and I know you will like him, mother."

Mother Gregory was pleased to see Bennie's attitude toward his cousin and it was encouraging to her, for she knew her boy had the right spirit and wanted to return kindness to his cousin. She had no fear of Harry not making Cousin Joe feel at home, for Harry was an ideal son and brother.

Bennie kept on working with his father all week but he told him he was going back to Philadelphia and work at stone-cutting again, for Uncle Joe had sent for him and so he said "I'll go back with Cousin Joe." He told his father that he had sent word to that effect.

So John Gregory told his son he had his best wishes for his success, and said, "Uncle Joe always spoke well of your work and I know you will get along alright so I wish you success, my boy, but I shall miss you."

On Saturday evening, Bennie and Millie went to the station to meet Cousin Joe. The train was on time and Bennie clasped Joe's hand warmly as he bade him welcome. Millie threw her arms about him and kissed him, as she asked about Amelia and all the rest. Soon they were on their way home, chatting as they walked, for it was not far.

Mother Gregory was anxiously waiting, and had gone as far as the gate to meet her nephew. She too, embraced him and with her arm about

him they walked in to the house. Having met the rest of the family, Joe was made to feel at home.

At supper, Joe told his aunt not to be surprised if she heard that Amelia would soon be married, for she was going with a young man whom they all thought a great deal of and, "Auntie, dear, I know Amelia loves him, and they seem well suited to each other."

Mother Gregory was surprised for she had no idea that Amelia was thinking seriously of anyone in that light. But she brightened up and said, "Well Joe, I know Amelia will make a kind loving wife for she is a good girl, and we all miss her very much. If she gets a good honest husband who really loves her, why, we shall be satisfied."

John Gregory said very little about this marriage but inquired about Uncle Joe and the whole family. Cousin Joe stayed a couple of weeks, during this time Bennie and Harry tried to entertain him the very best they could, for they liked him and were anxious to show him a good time while here. They took little trips and went visiting friends who were glad to hear about Philadelphia.

Cousin Joe had never been in a mine, so the boys were going to take him down the shaft, but when Joe watched the miners coming out, he said he was satisfied to stay on the top. Looking down into the dark abyss, he shook his head and said, "No Bennie, I am satisfied, and from what I now know, I shall always say these men deserve all they get for they take a big risk in going down into the bowels of the earth like that."

Bennie told him they did not have that fear as they were used to it, and it was second nature to them to work under ground. But Joe said, "when I hear of the men asking for more wages and going out on strike to get it, why, Bennie, I'll sympathize with them and wish them success, for they deserve all they can get."

With a sad heart, Mother Gregory began to gath-

er Bennie's things together and pack them for he would leave most any time now. She had gotten many little things for him which she knew he would appreciate, especially as she wanted to surprise him. So as Bennie was leaving the mines he drew his money in full. He handed his envelope to her just as he had done while a young boy, picking slate.

Mother Gregory smiled and handed it back, saying, "Bennie, my boy, you keep your money as you will need it to cover your expenses until you draw your next pay. All mother asks of you, Bennie, is that you lead an upright life and keep good company, and I know you will grow stronger in will-power as the days go by."

"I shall always send out a loving thought upon the atmosphere, and when you feel my influence and presence around you, you must listen to My Guiding Voice at all times, for I shall always try to lead you on to a higher and nobler plane of existence, where the pure in heart shall see God."

"Bennie, I have had many experiences during my life time, and I have always trusted in the Infinite to guide me, and lead me in the straight and narrow path, and having full faith and assurance my prayers have been answered. I do not get a chance to talk to you very often, dear, but take my advice and let me counsel you to take heed to My Guiding Voice, and you will not go astray."

This was Mother Gregory's advice to her boy, for she loved and idolized him, and knew he had a weakness for intoxicants, and she sympathized with him. As the boys were ready to leave and all the good-byes said, mother and son were locked in each others arms as the tears rolled down her cheeks, she blessed him, and entrusted him to the care and guidance of One in whom she had faith. So he leaves her feeling that she has his welfare at heart.

While Mother has that sense of knowing that her boy is a Wanderer, she feels that he has gone

out of the home to rove over the face of the earth. So she watches him as he waves good-bye.

Harry watched his mother closely and after she had cried a little while he put his arms around her and tried to comfort her, saying, "Mother, dear, why worry so, you have me, and I will try to fill Bennie's place."

"Harry, you understand why I worry. You know Bennie can be so easily influenced to do wrong on account of his weakness, and he needs me to aid him, and to help him out of his troubles. While, if it were you, Harry, I would not worry, for you can take care of yourself, my boy."

Harry told his mother that he knew why she felt so worried, and that he understood the attachment between her and his brother and how he, too, had prayed to The Infinite One to make Bennie see his error and lead a good life that he need not be ashamed to say, NO, when tempted. I have asked and implored that this may be so, mother, for I know you feel so bad to think of your boy, out among strangers, and not strong enough to resist the temptor.

Harry had a deep true love for his mother, and realized fully how her heart was breaking over the thought of Bennie. So he consoled her and tried to cheer her, telling how they would be surprise Bennie and Amelia some day. They would take a little trip to Philadelphia soon and see all the folks there.

"And mother dear, let us send Bennie all the help we can from day to day and I am sure he will benefit by it, for you know, mother that Bennie loves you with his whole soul, he clings to you so closely, dear, and we can help him I know. This was something for mother to meditate on and she thanked Harry for being so willing to help and blessed him from the bottom of her heart.

Harry was ambitious and sober and had about made up his mind to do a little traveling, but now

that Bennie had left home, and his mother was in such a state, he would not even think of mentioning it at present.

The next evening Mother Gregory had a card from Bennie saying they had a pleasant journey and found every one well in Philadelphia. So this good Soul felt a little better knowing her boy had arrived safely.

When Bennie and his cousin got home they were welcomed by one and all, for Uncle Joe was indeed glad to have Bennie to work for him, as he was skilled in cutting as well as polishing stone.

Uncle Joe told Bennie that he had some fine work to do and knew he was the man to undertake it. So Bennie was encouraged from the first. Being tired Bennie went to his room early and after he was in bed, he felt as though some one was very close to him, he felt an influence that inspired him to be of good cheer. He realized this was his dear mother trying to make him know she was near him in spirit if not in the flesh.

As he meditated he was reminded of a poem by E. M. Johnson that his mother loved to repeat.

“When I am sad, it comes to me,
(Her Guiding Voice)
A tender quiet old strain;
I hear her voice soft, low and sweet
Take up the song again.
I lean and listen to the sound—
(Her Guiding Voice)
Were ever notes like these?
Like brooding thrush, at sunset hour,
When day is at its close.”

Such was the thought that Bennie had on his mind, in the thought of a loving mother, who was sending out her influence upon the atmosphere, like unto a magnetic current, drawing two poles together from opposite directions. So we find that this dear mother was sending her boy, Bennie, her thought, Her Guiding Voice, impressing him to do

good and lead a life that would be a credit to himself and those connected with him.

Bennie realized this was his mother influencing him and he answered her saying, "Yes, mother dear, I feel your influence around me and that you are impressing me to lead a better life, one that is noble and just: And mother, I shall do my best to heed Your Guiding Voice."

Kneeling by his bed, he opened his heart to God, and prayed fervently, that he be led aright and implored Divine Guidance in all thine. He asked for blessings to be bestowed on his dear mother and father, on his sisters and brothers, the sick and afflicted, the widows and orphans and those in distress. As he rose to his feet he felt as though a heavy load had been lifted from his shoulders, and with a lighter heart he went to bed thinking of how his dear mother always sang a hymn after her prayer, so, he too, repeated a part of—"I need Thee every hour."

Having a clear conscience now, Bennie was soon asleep. And the next day he felt so much better for he had nothing on his mind and had written home, so he felt fine. He did not start to work for a few days, as his uncle wanted him to start on that special work and finish it.

That night Bennie met his sister Amelia's friend, William Rogers, at Aunt Sarah's, for Amelia always entertained her friends at Aunt Sarah's home and no wonder Mother Gregory felt satisfied to have her children with her, for they were made one of the family. Bennie was very much impressed with Mr. Rogers who had a pleasing personality and was a good conscientious worker, so we find Bennie interested in this couple.

Amelia told her brother that they were to be married in a month or so, at Mr. Rogers home. So she was going to write home and ask her Father and Mother to come to Philadelphia for the wedding.

Bennie told Amelia that she should have told her mother long before this as she was deserving of the confidences of her children. He told how surprised they all were when Cousin Joe mentioned it at home. For mother never thought of you keeping steady company, so naturally it was a shock, but never mind, sister, I know mother will like William Rogers, for he seems to be an ideal, clean cut fellow, and I hope you will be very happy, Amelia."

This pleased Amelia, for she felt sorry to think she had neglected to tell her mother sooner. She wanted all her people to like Mr. Rogers for she was taken with him from the first time they met.

The next week Uncle Joe told Bennie he was ready to start on that special piece of work, and told him it would require great skill but that he had confidence in Bennie as a worker and so was leaving this in his hands to work out. I have mentioned your ability to some of the officials and they will watch this piece of work closely, so Bennie, I think this will be a step toward getting you something a great deal better very soon.

Bennie said, "Uncle Joe, I always take an interest in my work, no matter what it may be, and as this is a special piece of work, you can depend upon me to strain every effort available to bring it to a successful issue, for my own good, and for you, for if it were not for you, and your help I would not be so proficient in my work as I am, and I want to thank you, uncle."

Uncle Joe was pleased to think Bennie was willing to say right out, that he owed much of his success to his teaching. On Saturday evening, when his uncle came in he said, "Bennie, you can get ready to be on the job Monday morning, and I will be right with you for I am in charge of that work, and have all the men selected carefully, so I feel it will be a credit to all when completed."

Bennie was glad that he would be working and

also glad to know that Uncle Joe was fore-man on the job, for they got along splendidly together. So on Monday morning Bennie and his uncle started for work on schedule time, and during the day Aunt Sarah had received a long letter from Bennie's mother, telling how glad she was to know her boy was to be with them and work for his uncle.

She had quite a surprise for Bennie, too, for Peggy was the mother of a fine baby girl which she named Margaret, a beautiful blue-eyed baby with blond hair and the sweetest expression on its face. Aunt Sarah was surely pleased to hear this for she loved Peggy as much as though she were her own daughter. She could scarcely wait for evening to come, so anxious was she to tell the good news. Like the good soul she was, she gave thanks for this great blessing, just as fervently as did her good sister, Bennie's mother.

Aunt Sarah was a good Christian woman, too, and a model wife and mother she loved her husband and children who were indeed worthy of her love, for they were always anxious to aid her in every way. So we do not need to have any fear as to the influence that surrounds her home and Mother Gregory knows this to be a fact, that is why she feels more satisfied to have Bennie in this home.

As soon as Bennie got home his aunt told all about her letter and how she had been wishing he had been there to hear the news, for Bennie, your dear sister has a dear little daughter, Margaret, and I am so glad to know that Peggy named her little girl after our Dear Grand-Mother who is now in the great beyond, but living in our memories, for she was a loving soul, and your mother, Bennie, is much like her. So when our family are together, we feel grand-mother's presence very clearly.

Bennie was very attentive and what Aunt Sarah just said about her grand-mother, reminded him of his own experience along that line. So he said to Aunt Sarah, "That is something I want to tell you,

just before I left home, mother had a long talk with me, advising me what to do while away from her presence. So I prayed to The Infinite Spirit to guide me in all truth, and since then, no matter where I am, whether at work or among my friends, I seem to feel my mother's presence and to hear Her Guiding Voice, at all times advising me and impressing me to keep on the straight and narrow path."

Getting back to your letter, Auntie, I hope Peggy and the baby are getting along nicely. "Yes, Bennie, your mother and Millie are both with her and you may rest assured that Peggy is well cared for."

"Say, Aunt Sarah, how about that, Peggy, her husband, two sons and now a daughter, all blue-eyed, is it not wonderful? Such a loving family and I am proud to be connected with them so closely."

Although Bennie wrote to his mother regularly, he also wrote to Peggy telling her how happy he was to know she had a little daughter and that he was anxious to see her and the children. He sent many little remembrances to them and to his mother whom he loved dearly.

He sent his dear mother a long cheery letter, telling her all about his work, how Uncle Joe had given him this special piece to do and how he would endeavor to make a success of it, assuring her he felt her influence and that he listened for "Her Guiding Voice" at all times and how he responded, hoping she heard and realized how much good it did for him.

He went on to tell how she inspired him to go on and on, and how he felt lifted to a higher plane and he could catch these words she sang—

Toiling on, toiling on, toiling on,
Toiling on, toiling on, toiling on.
Let us hope and trust,
Let us watch and pray,
And labor till the Master comes.

“So, mother dear, I am heeding your voice, toiling on till the Master comes. I just wrote to Peggy and am glad she is doing so nicely. I suppose you heard from Amelia before now, as she was anxious to tell you all about Mr. Rogers and their early marriage. I like him very much, mother dear, for he appears to be kind and considerate and I feel sister will find in him a good husband.

So, mother dear, I shall close by sending my love to you, father, Harry, Millie, Marie and the baby, but I suppose Clyde does not like to be called the baby, as he must be a fine big fellow now and especially since he has a dear little niece.”

Your loving son——Bennie.

Bennie was always lighter hearted after writing his letter to his mother, but when his letter reached her, she was sick, Millie was really alarmed and had summoned Peggy, who was at her mother's side, and were anxiously awaiting the arrival of the doctor.

Poor Mother Gregory, she was so wrapped up in her children, especially Bennie, and his letter had assured her he was doing well and she was glad to know he was pleased with Amelia's intended husband. When the doctor had examined Mother Gregory he found nothing serious the matter with her, just a nervous breakdown, he assured them, telling Peggy that she must have had some shock, but with proper care, nourishing food, cheerful faces around her, she would get along alright, and be as well as ever in a short time.

Harry helped his sisters in many ways and we find the Gregory children willing workers, so Mother Gregory need not be alarmed about her house-hold not getting along, for each and every-one took a hand and the work did not drag, even little Marie and Clyde helped.

CHAPTER XII

HARRY LEAVES HOME AS HIS MOTHER RECOVERS

Harry had been planning to take a trip out west and was just about ready to tell his mother, when she took sick, so of course he could not tell her now, for he would not think of leaving her just when she needed his presence, for she relied on Harry at all times, and he realized how much she depended on him, in times of need.

He feared another shock would be detrimental to her, so he decided to wait until she was able to attend to her duties again. He worked, trying in every way to make things pleasant for her. He spent his evenings at her side, telling her anything that might interest her in any way.

While thus talking, Mother Gregory asked Harry if he had heard from Bennie lately and Harry said, "Yes, mother, Bennie is working steady and doing fine, and he is well." This relieved Mother Gregory for she had that fear that Bennie was drinking, and so he was, but Harry would not tell her that part, for it would worry her to know Bennie had broken his promise to heed Her Guiding Voice.

Bennie had attached himself to a group who drank and staid out late, carousing and playing cards. But we must not blame his Uncle Joe for leading him astray, for, while Uncle Joe drank, he would come home in a good humor, laughing and joking and never ran into debt, as Bennie's father so often did, for drink.

Bennie had this weakness, and Aunt Sarah was sorry for him, for she too, knew how her dear sister had to shift and strain to make ends meet, because Johnny drank to excess. So she pitied Bennie and did all she could to help him keep away

from such associates. Aunt Sarah and her children never needed to feel afraid when Joe would get in this state, for he was friendly to everybody and rather jovial.

Aunt Sarah would ask Bennie to watch Uncle Joe, at these times for he was so good natured that he would give anyone his last penny if they but asked for it, so in this way it was not good for him. She knew Bennie would be able to persuade his uncle to come home better than anyone else, for Joe liked Bennie. There was an attractiveness and attachment between these two souls.

So Aunt Sarah thought she would strengthen Bennie by letting him feel she trusted him to look after his uncle, on the other hand it threw Bennie into company of this kind, and with the desire already well developed, it was not the thing for Bennie. So we do not blame either Uncle Joe or Aunt Sarah for Bennie's shortcomings. He should have developed a strong will-power and so he could have resisted those temptations from time to time and by going off by himself, he would be able to hear his dear mother as she would influence him by Her Guiding Voice.

Mother Gregory was recovering rapidly and she had the love and care of all her children, but especially Peggy and Milly who devoted most of their time to her comfort. Mother Gregory was blessed with strong vitality and still more magnetism, so she was soon up and around.

After Mother Gregory had been attending to her own house-hold for about two weeks, and was getting along nicely, Harry thought this was the time to tell her about his plans. So on Sunday evening as mother and children were gathered around the table, each interested in his own book, while our good Soul, Mother Gregory, had her BIBLE.

Harry approached her saying, "Mother, I have been thinking of taking a little trip and if you will go with me I know the change of scenery will do you

lots of good and it will give you some needed rest, too. We would both enjoy it and you may be sure I shall look to your comfort, dear."

"Harry, dear," said his mother, "I do not like to see you go away, but dear, I can not leave your father and the children, for they need me around, to see that all is well." But she went on telling him she would not hinder him from going for she knew he had been faithful through all their troubles and a big help, too.

"I would dearly love to go with you, my boy, but I feel that I am needed at home, for home is where my treasure is, and as the master says, "for where your treasure is, your heart is also there."

Harry made preparations to go West, but about this time Mother Gregory had a letter from Amelia inviting the whole family to come on to Philadelphia for her wedding which was to take place at Mr. Rogers home outside the City limits. So Harry postponed his western trip.

Mother Gregory read Amelia's letter to Johnny and asked him if he would go, but he thought over it and said, "Lassie, if we wait a little later, we can take all the family and attend the Robert Burns Festival, and I know you will enjoy that, and it wont be long to wait."

This being settled, Mother Gregory wrote Amelia a nice motherly letter explaining how her father had counted on coming later to spend a little time in the City, and bring all the children, so they decided to wait, but Harry would come and she went on to tell Amelia how glad she was to know what a fine husband she was getting and she wished them joy and happiness and that we will see Mr. Rogers and you when we come.

The next week Harry starts for Philadelphia, to be there for the wedding. He was welcomed to Aunt Sarah's home, and was surprised to meet so many friends of Bennie's, and also Amelia's. Many of them knew Peggy and asked for her and her

children. The Wedding took place and Amelia was to live with Mr. Rogers parents, so she did not prepare a home of her own at first.

Harry intended to spend a few days with his relatives in Philadelphia, then to go on west as he planned so long ago. There were many places of interest to Harry and his uncle and cousins as well as Bennie were anxious for him to have a nice pleasant visit. They took him among their friends and Uncle Joe asked him to stay in Philadelphia a while, as he thought he would have no trouble in finding work, if he cared to remain.

Harry rather liked the surroundings and enjoyed seeing his sister and brother, so he told Uncle Joe he would look out for something to do, and would stay a while at least. During the day he had tried many places but was told, no new hands were needed, and Harry was accustomed to working in the mines..

That night at the table, Harry said, "Well, uncle, there seems little chance for me to get anything along my line of work and perhaps I had better go on my way, out west as I had planned." "Well, my boy, you might try again, and perhaps I may be able to find something that you could do until you get something along your own line."

So the next day Uncle Joe had looked about and that night he told Harry he could put him on a hoisting crane in the stone-yards if it would be agreeable to him. "I may be able to find something later on, in my own line, uncle, but I am willing to try this for the time being."

"Uncle Joe I thank you for your interest in me and our whole family, for you and Aunt Sarah have been very good to all of us, and we appreciate it from the depths of our souls." Uncle Joe told him he could start the next morning, and he would take him over to the job before he went to his own work, which was not in the yard.

That night Harry wrote a long letter home, telling his Mother all about how kind he found his uncle

and aunt and cousins. How glad Bennie was to see him and how he asked for his dear mother, whom he loved dearly. He went on to tell all about the wedding, how Amelia was dressed and how sweet she looked as she stood beside her husband, who is such a manly person and well liked by all.

"Many inquired why you were not present, but Aunt Sarah is such a dear soul and so like you, dear mother, that I feel as though you were really here at times. Everything went smoothly and after the ceremony a delightful supper was served, and all enjoyed a pleasant evening, but if you had been there mother dear, I know we would all have liked it better."

"No wonder Bennie likes it here, he is settled as one of Uncle Joe's boys and they get along nicely together, mother dear. You see auntie and the others make one so welcome and she is the picture of your loving self. I wish you could have seen Amelia in her pretty bridal robe, mother mine, she was beautiful and just as good and pure as when she left our home to come here, and you know, mother dear, how we all miss your loving presence."

"She seems very happy as Mrs. Rogers, and I feel that she will be a true loving wife and does not mind living with Mr. Rogers people, as his parents are good Christian people and they take her as their own daughter. You will love his mother, for she is a sweet little soul and I know you will be glad to know Amelia has such congenial surroundings.

I waited till after the wedding to write your letter, for I wanted to tell you all the news, mother dear. I have decided to stay here a while, as Uncle Joe has a job for me and I start to work in the morning. I am to help on a lifting crane in the yard and perhaps I shall like it. It will do till I find something better.

Bennie is well and will write to you soon, Aunt Sarah will be pleased to hear from you and they all send their love and want father to be sure and

come as he promised. Now mother dear, give Peggy my love and kiss the children for me and I shall find some trinkets to send them from Uncle Harry. Tell Millie I miss her, also dear little Marie and Clyde. With love to you and father, I am,"

Your loving son—Harry.

We readily see how Harry reaches out to his dear mother, whom he loves and adores. When mother received Harry's letter it pleased her to know he was so anxious to let her know all about the wedding and also about his prospects. As she pondered over it, it brought tears to her eyes, for one by one her children were going out into the world, to do for themselves, and soon there will be no one here but Johnny and me.

She sat and thought of each one as they were placed in her arms to care for and protect, how they toddled around her skirts, falling many times but finally one by one they grew stronger and stronger and needed less care. She recalled the many times they had enjoyed little outings all to themselves or perhaps they shared their pleasure with some of the little friends who were less fortunate.

Then she thought of the many times they would come to her for comfort in their little trials, how she always tucked them in bed after hearing their prayers. How empty the house seems with Millie at Peggy's, and Marie and Clyde at school. How my boys went to work when mere lads, and Oh! the smile on their faces as they emptied their envelopes into my lap, for they knew I needed their help. Again how they shared what little I could give them with their sisters. What a happy little family we were when all together, but things have changed. One by one they go. The house will soon be empty.

But I have the assurance that all my children love me and I love them, but Bennie needs my careful guidance and I must watch over him and influence him, by My Guiding Voice, to do right and be

led into paths of usefulness and on to a plane of higher existence.

The others are able to care for themselves, and I need have no fear, for I have always given them the best advice possible for a mother to give her children, and I shall always pray for them wherever they may roam.

This was Mother Gregory's thought as she sat alone after reading Harry's letter. In the meantime Harry started to work and was getting along nicely, and he had not been in Philadelphia many days until he found out that Bennie was leading a life of drunkenness, and he knew this would break his dear mother's heart; but she was not to know just yet.

Harry was sorry to see this and he tried to talk to Bennie and to reason with him, telling him how his mother tried to help him and how much she loved him, and if he would just try a little harder to keep away from such places, how happy his dear mother would be, knowing her boy was safe and heeding Her Guiding Voice.

Aunt Sarah, too, tried to reason with Bennie and to make him see how unhappy his mother would be to find that he had departed from her precepts. "Bennie, if your mother should be here when you come in like this, it would turn her hair gray and bow her head in sorrow,, for she loves you, my child." It would kill her.

"Well, Auntie," said Bennie, "I am ashamed of myself for acting like this, and I faithfully promised my mother, as I was leaving, that I would heed Her Guiding Voice, and I have broken my promise, but Auntie, dear, I promise that if you will not tell her of my doings, I will turn over a new leaf, and do what is right, between God and man." But his promise went to naught.

No sooner did Bennie come in contact with his associates, than he was led deeper and deeper into the mire, going along evil ways and continually

fighting and drinking. It seemed as if he was possessed with an evil spirit, a sort of obsession, for he could no more control his own actions, than the the Sun can dawn in the mists of the night.

Harry talked and pleaded in vain, he tried in every way to hold him in check, but Bennie would get angry and tell him to mind his own business. He told Bennie that he expected the whole family to come to Philadelphia in a couple of weeks and I would not like mother to see you act like you have been doing, Bennie.

"For her sake, who loves and adores you, Bennie, straighten up and be a sober man to greet them when they come. Aunt Sarah, too is anxious for you to be in good condition when the folks come. So think it over and think how you will crush her spirit to see you in a state of intoxication." This did no good, it fell like chaff to the wind.

Think of such a depraved son, who could act in this manner, especially when he knew his dear mother was so anxious for his welfare, but even though she knew he was easily led astray and influenced by his associates, knowing that he heeded not her advice, for she knew his failing; so in face of all this he was still her boy, her Bennie, whom she loved with something akin to Divine love, the love of a mother for an erring child.

He needed her protection and she would willingly lay down her life to save him, such was her love, and he was continually abusing it and tramping it under his feet. Harry was disgusted with Bennie and kept out of his way as much as possible.

Harry wrote and told his mother he was going away for a week or so, but that he would return to Philadelphia, his object was to have them postpone their visit until later or perhaps not at all. for he could not think of Mother Gregory finding Bennie in such condition on her arrival. Bennie was a sad sight those days, always under the influence of drink.

Harry did go away for a week and on his return, he told his aunt he had better change his boarding place for he could not stand to see how he was acting, "And I dare not write and tell mother, for it would only worry her."

Harry was soon settled in a quiet home and as he had many friends he was getting along nicely and need not see Bennie's actions from day to day. He had met a young lady whom he had learned to love and as it was mutual, Harry took her over to Aunt Sarah's and introduced her as his intended wife. You see Harry was anxious to get married and settle elsewhere, where he would not be disgraced by his brother's deeds.

Day after day slipped by and it was just the same; Uncle Joe and Bennie would be seen in town, drunk and ready to fight, especially Bennie who was like his father when he drank to excess. When Aunt Sarah would hear they were drinking she was always worried for fear they would get into some serious scrape.

Things were going from bad to worse, they lingered to drink on their way from work, and often kept Aunt Sarah waiting for them. So one night they were unusually late and unusually drunk in the bargain. Aunt Sarah told them she did not know what to do for she and Amelia had each received a letter saying all the Gregory family would arrive the next evening about five o'clock. This startling news soon sobered them both and they straightened up.

Everybody was elated and especially Bennie, who loved his mother and was too weak to resist temptations as they arose from time to time. But he made a solemn promise to himself that his dear mother should not see him drunk while she was here. So he went to work knowing he would see his dear mother that night.

Aunt Sarah, Amelia and Harry went to the station to greet the Gregory family and welcome them

to Philadelphia, such loving embraces as these folks received, it would do you good to see the love expressed in this welcome.

By the time they got home, the men were home from work and Uncle Joe gave John Gregory a hearty handshake and also Mother Gregory, but Bennie and his mother were heading for the stairs and soon they ascended to Bennie's room for she could not wait even till Bennie got washed to talk to him.

Bennie told how he was progressing with his work and that was all true he had made great strides, for he was a skilled workman, and he went on telling her what grand opportunities were ahead of him. He did not tell her how he was continually drinking and fighting, no, that would never do, he must not tell her and thus spoil her visit.

He asked her how she was and wanted to know how she was getting along and he told her he often thought of her and the advice she gave him, but, "Mother, I must confess, that when I get among my associates, I seem to lose control of myself."

"There seems to be an influence working over me, and I cannot shun it, and the result is, "I am led astray." But do you know, mother, at such times I hear Your Guiding Voice warning me, and I feel your presence by my side, so it makes me feel bad to think I can not resist the temptations before me, and as soon as I get started to drink, I lose control of myself entirely."

"I have never mentioned these things in my letters and I asked Aunt Sarah and Amelia not to tell you for I knew it would make you worry about me." "So, Bennie dear, you have been drinking again," said his mother, "I am indeed sorry to hear that, for I thought you were leading a different and better life."

"Let me tell you, Bennie, it takes concentrated effort on your part to create a will-power. With a strong determined effort you can and must win,

my boy." O! if I could only do it for you, I would show you, as she talked the tears rolled down her cheeks. Bennie told her to cheer up that he would try again. "Now, mother dear, go down stairs and talk to Aunt Sarah while I wash and dress for supper."

"Just a minute, my boy," said his mother, while we are alone, use the reason your dear mother gave you sometime ago, for you always gain more rest along the road between two extremes. "And my boy, a man who does not believe in God, is as a child who has lost himself, he knows not where. Far from home he wanders, drifting about like a ship at sea, with out a compass or rudder, which after much exertion, is tempest tossed, finally returns to port, till at last weeping and weary he returns to his mother's breast."

This touched Bennie deeply and he said, "Mother, I know what you say is absolutely true and after supper we will find a few minutes to talk." But Mother did not want to stop now so she went on, "Bennie, dear, weary of this fruitless labor, which even if its object were realized, would not fill the void within the human breast, he finds that which caused him to wander so long in darkness, most unsatisfactory, and he awakens to the knowledge that there is a Living Truth; and gives him Light to leap all barriers and break the chains that have so long held him captive, and waking, he is FREE—yes free my boy, think of it.

A child born again of the spirit, he has found God and now learns that God is a crowning feature of the spiritual, as man is of the physical world, so now, my boy, Trust in God."

"Fear not, but trust in God, oh child of earth,
Night's darkest shadows precedes the dawning light,
Thy morning hour, though late, shall have its birth.
And flood thy pathway with its radiance bright,
Fear not, but trust in God, His ways are grand.
He holds thee in the hollow of His Hand."

Aunt Sarah called them to come down to supper, so that ended this little talk and Mother Gregory went down to help serve the supper so as soon as Bennie was ready they all sat down, everyone speaking of the things closest to their mind. So Harry thought this was his chance to announce his plans for the future.

"You will no doubt be surprised to hear that Elizabeth and I are to be married in about a month." This was quite a surprise to Mother Gregory, for though Harry had written about Elizabeth she did not expect such a hasty marriage. Harry told them that Elizabeth would be here a little later and they would all see her, for she is to spend the evening here. "Mother, dear, I know you will love her and become fast friends."

Mother Gregory told Harry she would certainly love her, if he did, and of course Harry loved Elizabeth in sincerity and truth. Aunt Sarah spoke well of her as Harry had brought Elizabeth over to see her. Just then the door-bell rang and Harry went to open it, for he knew it was Elizabeth.

As they entered the dining room, Mother Gregory, with her loving smile rose to greet Elizabeth, as Harry said, "Mother dear, let me introduce my intended wife, Elizabeth Hawley, and dear loving soul she folded Elizabeth in close embrace and said, "So this is Elizabeth, Harry, and as you love her, we shall love her, too."

After she had met them all, she turned to Mother Gregory, and said, "Yes, Harry and I love each other and I am sure I shall love all his people. Don't you know, you remind me of my own dear mother, who is in the Great Beyond, but who is ever near me. So I shall be glad to share my love with Harry and I think we will get along very nicely."

Mother Gregory and Elizabeth fell in love at first sight, for there was an attraction which ripened into love and both felt this force, and let it manifest. While The Gregory family were here, Bennie

managed to keep himself straight, his mother always kept close to him and made him feel that she depended on him. So he was not attracted to his old haunts.

Bennie, Harry and Amelia did everything to make their stay pleasant, as well as Aunt Sarah, she too, entertained them as well as she could, for there were many places of interest to show them.

In spite of careful watching, Johnny and Joe got away from the others, and were soon missed, but that night they came in feeling fine, joking and laughing, telling how they had met Joe's old friends and had had a drink or two.

The two sisters said not a word until they had told their story. Aunt Sarah told Joe she was ashamed to think he would go off and leave the rest of the company to visit others. "And Joe, you know how hard I have worked to keep Bennie away from drink, and now you take the first opportunity to lead him wrong. I am ashamed of you and I am ashamed of both of you to see you in this state. Are you not ashamed of yourselves, or is there no shame in you?"

Aunt Sarah knew that Mother Gregory was hurt to think that Johnny should get in such a state, so her sister fired away, hot and heavy. The men said not a word, they swallowed all, for they deserved all they got and more, too.

The men were obliged to go to work during the day, but Joe told his brother-in-law that he would be home early and they would have a little more time to get around together.

The children and Amelia and Mother Gregory and Aunt Sarah spent the afternoon at a matinee, which was a great treat to the Gregory children. After returning Aunt Sarah had a long talk with her sister about Bennie, as to what course to pursue. How to keep him away from his present associates, but it seems they were unable to come to any conclusion.

Mother Gregory thought if he would attend Church and Sunday School he would meet a different class of men and he could be influenced to lead a better life, but Sarah said he would not start, she had tried to have him go with her and the children, but he would not.

In the quiet of her room, Mother Gregory, knelt beside her bed, and opened her soul to God, fervently asking for, and imploring Divine Guidance for the aid of her boy, and also prayed to The Loving Father to guide his footsteps along the right way; "Oh Thou creator, when I look upon Thy Magnificence, and the grandeur of Thy powerful will, I am astonished by my perceptions.

The ocean rises in its tempests, and the billows rise and subside—the thunder in the heavens resound and the lightnings flash and are still—man is born—dies—passes away like a tale that is told; and everywhere we feel Thy loving presence Thy loving hand—Thy Guiding Voice. And I ask Thee, Oh loving Father to send Thy power and protection over my boy, who is wandering far from Thee, and bring him closer to Thee. Grant these requests from a soul seeking aid."

Thus she prayed for her boy and had that faith that her prayer would be answered. As she retired for the night her thought went out to Bennie, whom she loved and adored, but she knew his weakness and so she sent out a helpful thought to him every time she had the chance to do so.

Mr. Rogers had moved to Camden, New Jersey to be nearer to his work, so Amelia came over to Philadelphia every day while her folks were here and they all had a nice time together. Mother Gregory liked Amelia's husband and his people, for they were good earnest people.

Bennie kept the straight and narrow path and we give him credit for so doing as he respected his parents, and was keeping the promise he made Aunt Sarah. Bennie was thinking of what Harry

said about getting married in a month, and he was wondering what to get them for a gift. So he said to his mother, "Mother, you know Harry and Elizabeth are to be married soon and I want to get a nice wedding present for them. What do you think would be a suitable gift?"

"Well, Bennie there are so many things a brother can give, but if I were you I would try to find out what they need most and in that way your gift would be one of usefulness and be beneficial to them." "That is a good suggestion, Mother, I would not of thought of asking." She told Bennie she would attend to that for him, so he need not bother.

That afternoon, Harry and Elizabeth stopped on their way from town, and Mother Gregory had an opportunity to keep her word. She asked them what they needed most, telling them Bennie wanted to know.

"Mother dear, there are so many things we need, and we shall be pleased with just a token, but we do need a set of silver, but do not expect Bennie to get it alone." "Yes, I am sure that will suit Bennie and it will be something you will both appreciate." That night Mother Gregory whispered to Bennie that she had found out a nice gift for the wedding. He was pleased, and when she said, "A set of silver," he was glad, for he wanted to get a nice present for them.

He thanked her for finding out and said, "Mother, dear, they shall have it, and I give it in all sincerity." Bennie meant every word he said, for he was kind hearted and generous to the extreme.

The Gregory family had been visiting for two weeks when they decided to go home, but Harry and Elizabeth wanted them to stay for the wedding. This would have pleased them, but John Gregory must get back to work. But what made them stir, they had a letter from Peggy, saying that they were getting ready to move to the Virginias, as Arthur

was going into the contracting business there. So we find the folks anxious to see them.

"We would love to see you married, but it is not to be, so we all wish much happiness and we hope to see you often." Thus was the parting of Mother Gregory to Harry and Elizabeth, whom she learned to love dearly.

But this did not come to pass for when John Gregory knew that Arthur Thomas was leaving Mt. Carmel, he said they, too, would go, for he was attached to his son-in-law, and always said he would go with them, wherever they went. And he kept his word.

Peggy had said they would leave in a few days and they hoped to see them before leaving. John Gregory decided then and there that it was time for them to make tracks and get home. Peggy sent greetings to her Aunt Sarah and uncle as well as to her cousins whom she loved.

CHAPTER XIII

BENNIE'S ROMANCE

That evening after supper was over and they were all together for the evening, Mother Gregory told her sister that they would have to leave the next day, for they were all anxious to see Teresa and her family before they left for the Virginias.

Aunt Sarah and Uncle Joe as well as Bennie tried to persuade them to remain, but to no avail, for Johnny had made up his mind to start, as he was drawn to Arthur Thomas and nothing could prevent his going at the time stated. Johnny loved Teresas husband as well or even better than his own children, and Arthur was looked upon as a son by both Father and Mother Gregory.

The next day none of the men went to work, as they wanted to spend all the time possible with their visitors who were to leave on the afternoon train for Mt. Carmel. Mother Gregory was busy packing and after a little Aunt Sarah had them all together. Amelia and her husband had come to see them off, and Harry had gone for Elizabeth, so all were present and what a happy group they were!

Before leaving for the depot, Aunt Sarah had a nice lunch for them, "A cup of tea, before you leave," she said. So while they were enjoying a quiet cup of tea, Bennie remarked, "Well, the atmosphere has been filled with surprises of late so I shall top it off by giving you all the surprise of your lives."

All were anxious to hear and wanted him to go on, they were curious to know what Bennie had in store for them. So he said, "As you are leaving Philadelphia and this is a chance to tell my secret while we are all together, so I have been thinking of our family getting married one by one, I too have found a nice young lady whom I love. She

lives on the outskirts of the city and if she consents we shall be married."

"Her name is Hannah Sharp and she comes of a good honest family who are well known near Chester, Pennsylvania. I do not think any of you know her parents but I met them when Uncle Joe and I were doing some work in that neighborhood, about a year ago. I wanted to speak to her before I announced it, but as you are leaving I wanted to tell it."

"Mother, dear," said Bennie, turning to her, "I would dearly have loved you to meet her, while here, but she has been away on a visit to Chicago to see her sister who is married and lives there. She will not be home for a week or ten days, so you will not get to meet her this time, mother."

Bennie's mother was all smiles, her face fairly shone with pleasure, she felt so light hearted and happy as though a heavy load had lifted from her shoulders. She said, "Bennie, my boy, what a grand surprise, and how thoughtful and kind of you to tell me! It has lifted a load off my shoulders and my heart seems light, for I was worried about you, my boy, I was afraid you would go back to your old life and associates, after we leave."

Then she went on to tell him how glad she was to be congratulated on finding such a nice friend in Miss Sharp, and that she hoped their attachment would soon ripen into love and that it may terminate in a very happy union, in the near future.

"Now Bennie, dear, I did not get a chance to come to Amelia's wedding, and I shall not get to Harry's and Elizabeth's, but let me know when your date is set and I shall be there. This will not create any feeling among the others, for they all understand, they know why—yes—they know why, my dear boy."

All were pleased to see Mother Gregory brighten up, and they got their things and started for the station. In a little while they were at Broadstreet

Station and had twenty minutes to wait for their train. All were happy and the Gregory family had enjoyed a nice long visit.

Bennie got their tickets and as they heard the train coming Mother Gregory threw her arms around Bennie and kissed him, saying, "Oh Bennie, my dear boy, how happy I feel now to leave you for I am glad you are making this step in your life, I have often thought of that, my boy, but did not say so. I have no time to tell you all I have to say, but I shall write you a long letter after I get settled, be led, my boy, by My Guiding Voice, and you will not go astray."

Farewells having been exchanged the family boarded the train for home. As the train pulled out loving good-byes were waved and they were speeding toward Mt. Carmel and the Thomas Family.

Amelia and her husband boarded a car for Camden, while Harry and Elizabeth went to her home, leaving Bennie and the others to wend their way to Uncle Joe's. Bennie now turns over a new page in his life history.

The Gregory family arrived on time and soon Mother and daughters had a meal ready and they ate heartily, for the trip had given them all an appetite, and they were too excited to eat very much before leaving Philadelphia, for Bennie had given them all something to think about.

Johnny did not leave the house, for he expected the Thomas Family any minute, for he knew Peggy and her husband knew they had arrived and would come over as soon as they could. Arthur would tell all about his new work and when and where they were going.

Sure enough, the family came and such greetings! One would think they had been separated for a year, the children had so much to tell about their trip to Philadelphia and the little Thomases were

anxious to tell they—too—were going away off to live.

Arthur told John Gregory that he had made all preparations to leave the next week. "Well, Arthur, I'll go with you if you will take me." "Better wait a little while, say a couple of weeks till I get settled and things going, then I will send for you," said Arthur to his Father-in-law. John Gregory had to be satisfied with that, so he said, "All right, I shall look for the summons."

As the Gregory's had a busy day, Peggy and her family did not stay long for as soon as they had found out all about the Philadelphia folks, and about Harry and Elizabeth, and lastly about Bennie and Miss Sharp, they startel home so that the travelers would get to bed.

After Mother Gregory had them all safe in their own beds, this good soul poured out a fervent prayer to the All-Wise Father and the source of all Wisdom, imploring Divine Guidance to aid and lead her boy, Bennie, along the right path, she prayed that he be influenced to listen to Her Guiding Voice, in the silence, at home, at work—she asked that he be given confidence or will-power—to create self-confidence, that he would be able to become more positive and thus enabled to remove any obstacles that may cross his path from day to day.

She asked this in that faith—knowing her prayer would be answered—in truth and sincerety. When she finished her prayer she sang to soothe her soul

"He leadeth me, O blessed thought,
O words with heavenly comfort wrought:
What e'er I do, Where e'er I be,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom:
By waters still, o'er troubled sea,
Still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

O God, I would clasp Thy hand in mine,
Nor ever murmur or repine:
Content whatever lot I see,
Since 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

Thus this good motherly soul poured out her plea for her boy. She was pleased to know he was thinking of getting married, and already she was planning and hoping that he would come near home to live, so she would be in close touch with him. But her hopes were to be blasted as time rolls on. We shall see.

The days passed all too soon, the time came for the Thomas Family to start for the Virginias. This parting would have been a great deal harder, had it not been for the thought of going to be with them in just a little while. So the Gregory children said good-bye to the little niece and nephews for Peggy and Arthur expected to greet them all real soon, so they parted with that thought in view, that soon they would be neighbors again, for John Gregory was determined that Arthur should send for him.

They all watched the Thomas folks aboard and Johnny said, "Arthur, do not forget," and as they all waved, Arthur said, "I won't."

Mother Gregory was rather downhearted, as she looked at Johnny, she said, "Yes, they are leaving one by one for we have only three at home now and Millie will soon go, too, leaving Marie and Clyde.

"Be of good cheer, lassie, we will soon be with Arthur and his family," so Mother Gregory brightened up a little. In a few days Mother Gregory got Elizabeth's invitation to the wedding, but they were not going.

Harry intended to be quietly married and leave immediately for the West with Colorado as their most likely location. He did not tell his parents he was going so far away for he knew his dear mother would not like that, and he did not want to cause any undue anxiety on his part, so he waited.

Mother Gregory did not forget to write to Bennie, telling of their safe arrival and all about the Thomas Family. She told him how lonely she felt, as they were all out during the day, and "O Bennie, my boy, your father is taking little Clyde to work in the mines, and I had hoped that my baby would not go in the mines. Marie goes to school but helps me quite a little. Millie is getting her things ready to come to Philadelphia, so you see, my boy, how lonely I feel, for there used to be so many of you around me."

"I miss you all, especially you, Bennie, and now when I listen, all is so still, no romping, no calling for help, no bruises to be kissed well, and Bennie, I miss the pay days, when you boys would bring your envelopes so proudly and pour them into my lap. Those days are gone to return no more, my boy."

"I think of how we used to go to Sunday school and church and the nice little parties we used to get up and enjoy. Now my children are starting homes of their own and I am glad they have all done well so far and before many days go by, Harry will be married."

She went on to tell him how glad she was to know he was to get a good wife and have a little home of their own. "I have prayed for that time so fervently my boy, and now, it seems my prayer will be answered, and Bennie I hope it will be soon. Give our love to Aunt Sarah and her family for they were so good and kind to us all. Tell Harry that Teresa and her family left yesterday, and we intend to go in about a month. At any rate just as soon as Arthur gets ready for us. Tell Amelia I will write her later.

Give our love to one and all, and Bennie tell Miss Sharp I was sorry I did not meet her but I will be at the wedding, so wishing you joy and happiness, I am your loving mother."—Margaret Gregory.

That next night Bennie received his mother's

letter and he was indeed surprised to hear that Teresa and Arthur had already left for the Virginias, and more so to hear that his folks were to follow so shortly. Although he always knew his father had a strong liking for Peggy's husband, and always said he wanted to be near Arthur Thomas. For what Arthur said, went, with Father Gregory.

Bennie felt sorry for his mother, as he realized how she must feel, to see them go out, one by one to do for themselves, and he sympathized with her about her baby going into the mines so early.

Bennie thought of how she will feel when she hears that Harry and Elizabeth are going to Colorado to live. Amelia was now the mother of a sweet little girl whom they called Helen, after Mother Rogers.

Harry and Elizabeth, Bennie and his Aunt went to see the new baby and elated they were to see such a bright blue-eyed girl with curly hair. Amelia was doing nicely and such a proud father as William Rogers was! Every one thought the baby very sweet. Bennie told Amelia about his letter and that Millie was coming to Philadelphia to work when the others left for The Virginias.

Mother Gregory and Millie were busy getting things ready for their departure as they would leave Millie in Philadelphia, they would stop over a few hours and see the folks before they went away, as that was on their way and would not cost any extra. Millie had told her mother how she wanted to stay but did not like to be a worry to her and spoil her visit, but told how Bennie had worried her till finally he had cheered her by announcing his plans.

"Now that we are leaving Mt. Carmel and you are feeling better, I feel that you will not mind me wanting to work as my sisters had done, but Mother, I love you too well to do anything against your wishes."

So Mother Gregory told Millie she loved her too well to stand in her light and that she should write

and explain to the lady who wanted her, that she would be there in a month so that was all settled and mother and daughter busied themselves getting things ready. In the mean time Arthur had written to his father-in-law, telling him they arrived safely and had started on a contract, and that just as soon as they were straightened in their home, he would send for them to come.

Mother Gregory told Millie that they did not expect to return to Mt. Carmel very soon as John Gregory had said he intended to be near Arthur. "And where he goes, I go too, and we feel we are welcome." Millie understood the attachment between Peggy's husband and her father and she knew that Arthur would share his last dollar with Peggy's people, so close did he hold them.

Uncle Joe and Bennie were working steady, and Bennie was doing better in many ways, he was keeping away from his old associates and staying in at night, for his aunt had promised Mother Gregory that she would help him all she could to be led as he should go. So she tried to make her home as interesting as possible, and tried to entertain him and keep his mind away from his old associates.

He wrote regularly to his dear mother, telling her he was keeping his promise and trying to lead a good life. Mother Gregory was pleased to hear this for she loved Bennie with a true motherly love. She was so grateful to Aunt Sarah for the stand she was taking to help her boy. She prayed without ceasing that he would be led straight.

Bennie wrote to Peggy and always remembered his nephews and dear little niece. Many little remembrances reached them from Uncle Bennie, for he loved children. Amelia and her husband invited Bennie to spend any time he had with them and so everyone seemed to co-operate to keep Bennie on the straight and narrow path. He had not seen little Helen yet, so he is anxious to make a visit to Camden and see his niece.

Then, too he would write to Miss Sharp, and as the days slip by, he felt he could soon ask her to be his wife. She has returned from Chicago and is expecting a visit from Bennie and writes to that effect. But Bennie is not sure enough of himself to call, for as he said to Aunt Sarah, "I want to go, feeling I am fit to ask Hannah to share my life, and I ought to wait a little longer."

Aunt Sarah offered to loan him money to get the things he wanted and he could pay her when he could spare it, but Bennie refused to take it, saying he would wait and go right. He spent his evenings at home planning and sketching and doing a great deal of earnest thinking. Sometimes Aunt Sarah and his cousins would spend an evening playing cards.

Miss Sharp again invited him to pay her a visit at Chester, and Bennie answered this in a loving way, a way of his own, for while Bennie was good at drawing and sketching and a skilled workman in his line, he was no scholar, for we remember he left school at the age of eight to work and help support the family. He told her about Harry and Elizabeth and that she was included in the invitation to attend their wedding which was to be in a few days.

And he told her again that he had drank some but that he had given it up and was using his money for a better purpose. He told her he was anxious to have her come to Philadelphia and help him select a present for Harry and Elizabeth. He asked her to let him know when to meet her, or if it suited her better, to come to Aunt Sarah's for his aunt was very much interested in her and was anxious to see her. He inquired after her parents and said he would see them soon.

Miss Sharp had had an inkling that Bennie had been drinking, and that was why she was anxious to have him call to see her, and find out if he would give up drinking, but that she was afraid to risk her

happiness with a man who drank continually and was getting into all sorts of scraps. "But I shall not mis-judge him for I shall see for myself and then decide."

Her mother told her "He may promise to do better and if you really love him you will look over one anothers faults and you will both learn to look at the brighter-side of things."

Hannah Sharp was a sensible young woman of rare good judgement and a splendid disposition and a fairly good scholar, she was a natural housekeeper and would be an ideal wife and mother. She knew Bennie had a quick temper and she was the opposite so in that way she could smooth his pathway and straighten out any trouble.

When she received Bennie's letter she was anxious to hear that he was coming and was disappointed for he did not intend to come at this time. She wondered if he really cared for her, and she assured herself that he did and that he was so anxious to have her come to Philadelphia to help select a wedding present for Elizabeth and Harry. So she decided to have a talk with him and make definite arrangements when they had the opportunity.

Knowing why he did not come, she answered his letter at once, saying—

"Dear Bennie—

I am glad to say I received your letter yesterday afternoon, and while I looked forward to a visit from you, yet dear, I read your thoughts very clearly, which are of the kindest, and I assure you I shall try to comply with your request. So your brother is to be married next week, dear, and I hope he and Elizabeth, get along nicely, for though I have never met her, yet I feel I shall like her, and Harry too. How thoughtful of you to want me to be present when selecting a wedding present for them.

I shall be in Philadelphia next Saturday afternoon, arriving about three o'clock. In your letter you tell me you have been drinking some but that

you are done with it, and that you have a better use for your money, dear.

I am pleased to know of your resolution, Bennie, and hope you will keep it, for I had heard that you were drinking, dear, but hoped that it was not true. That was why I was so anxious to see you, so I could see for myself, but I did not feel that you were drinking to excess.

You realize the attachment that has sprung up between us and knowing how I abhor drunkenness, I can not think that you will let your former associates influence you to go astray. Do not let this disturb your peace of mind, and always remember that I am helping you keep your promise and I trust it may be done.

I shall expect to see you at the station and I shall be delighted to meet your Aunt Sarah and her family, for I feel as though I know her, dear, for you speak of her often. So give her my love and now I shall close by sending you my sincere love and well wishes. Lovingly—Hannah.”

When Bennie got home from work Aunt Sarah told him there was a letter for him from his intended wife, and Bennie said, “Why, how do you know?” She smiled as she handed him the envelope stamped, Chester, Pa.

Then Bennie’s face brightened up and he took his letter, sure enough it was from Hannah and he was anxious to know its contents, so lost no time in reading it. He was very happy and danced around the room saying, she is coming. He put his arms around Aunt Sarah and kissed her, but he loved her next to his own mother, she smiled as he told her the joyful news, and how they were all going to have an opportunity to see her, for Hannah was coming Saturday afternoon.

Bennie loved Hannah Sharp with a deep love and devotion and he told his aunt that they were going to select a wedding present for Elizabeth and Harry, but “Auntie dear, I want to select a nice ring

for Hannah, that is one reason I am so anxious for her to come at this time, dear. I want Hannah to meet all my folks, and I know, auntie, that you will love her for my sake, for she assures me of her love, which she knows I return."

"If my dear mother could have had the pleasure of meeting her. I know they would love each other, would be more sacred than otherwise, for as I faintly remember a hymn my mother used to sing when I was a boy. I seem to hear her voice, sweet as a nightingale, as she sang"—

"Blest be the tie that binds,
Our hearts in sacred love;
The fellowship of Christian minds,
Is like to that above.

Before our Father's Throne,
We pour united prayers;
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
Our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes,
Our mutual burdens bear;
And often for each other flows,
The sympathizing tear."

Bennie often thought of these inspiring words his dear mother used to sing, and it was these thoughts that kept him intact, from going astray.

He told his aunt that he wanted to fix up, as he wished to look his best. He invited Harry and Elizabeth, and wrote to Amelia and her husband, to be sure and come over on Saturday evening, as he wanted them to see Hannah.

He confided in Aunt Sarah and she was a mother to him, for she was anxious to help him keep straight and hold the love he had awakened within himself. As they talked he said, "Aunt Sarah, although I am nearly forty years old, I have never even thought of looking for a companion, but when I met Hannah, she seemed to attract me to her, and I reponded, and I must say that I love and adore

her, for she is of a type like unto my dear mother, as she is goodness itself, and should anything happen to part us—to separate us, it would settle the question with me forever, for I could not give my love for Hannah to another woman.”

Harry promised to bring Elizabeth to spend the evening, for as he said to Bennie, “You have spoken of Hannah so much that we are glad to meet her, and we feel as though we already know her, as she is a good soul, and should you marry her, Bennie, I am sure she will make you a loving wife.”

The next morning being Saturday, Bennie told Aunt Sarah he would be home about noon or perhaps a little earlier, as he wanted to be in plenty of time to meet Hannah. Aunt Sarah assured him she would have everything ready for him, so he started for work feeling light hearted, for he was to see some one whom he loved dearly.

A little before noon, auntie saw Bennie coming up the street, hurrying along, radiant and smiling as he saw her watching for him. As he entered the house Aunt Sarah thought to her self, what a different man Bennie is, and if anything were to come between these two loving souls, it would prove detrimental to Bennie, it would be his downfall.

But she threw the thought away from her remembering that George Matthew Adams said, “If you think you are going to be happy or successful, you have taken the first step towards being so.” The next step is to follow up your thoughts—and get the thing done. Thinking is what gives nourishment to the Soul, and thoughts are eternal things. It is sure to be wrong at times. All the more reason for concentrating—all the more reason for never giving up.”

This was Bennie’s thought. He thought of a dear loving wife in a home of their own, and he thought of himself as successful, and how he could and would lighten her burden by being a good kind husband and leading a good and noble life. To

do this he realized that he must concentrate all his efforts in that particular direction and never give up trying.

He must never let his associates control him and lead him back to evil conditions again, or he would lose and thus go astray, therefore to win, he knew he must develop self-control, and ask for Guidance, and listen to His Mother's Guiding Voice, and all would be well.

After eating his lunch, Bennie started for the depot, but owing to a delay on the street cars he just got there in time to see the train arrive. So he hastened to the platform to greet Hannah as she alighted.

How her face shone, happy and radiant as she kissed Bennie. A kiss which he will never forget. She was very neatly attired in a navy blue suit of serge and a small blue taffeta hat, gray-topped shoes, white gloves and carrying a black bag.

What a picture to look upon! This was what Bennie thought, as he took her traveling bag and started for the parcel room to check it. He told her he wanted to do some shopping and they would call for her bag when ready to go home to Aunt Sarah's house.

This being done, Bennie suggested getting a lunch, they went to a quiet place on Market Street where they enjoyed a dainty lunch. Bennie now told Hannah that they could do their shopping.

While waiting on their order, Bennie told her what his mother had suggested to get for Harry and Elizabeth and Hannah thought it very appropriate, indeed. "But, my dear, there is something more important to attend to." Hannah was curious to know so Bennie told her he wanted her to select an engagement ring. This was quite a surprise to Hannah, for he had never even hinted about getting a ring.

"Why, Bennie, I have never considered it for a moment, but as it will please you if I accept an

engagement ring, then I shall gladly do so, if you make me a promise." So Bennie asked her what she wanted him to promise? Hannah said, "Bennie, I want you to make a pledge not to take any intoxicants from now on."

"Hannah dear, I have not been drinking for several weeks and I promise you faithfully not to drink any more and I mean to abide by it, too." "Now Bennie, dear, if you break your pledge you will regret it."

And he did regret it, as we shall see.

CHAPTER XIV

THE RING OF BETROTHAL. THE PROMISE IS GIVEN.

As they left the lunch room they started for one of the well known jewelers and arriving they were met by a middle aged man, who greeted them pleasantly, remarking about the day and asked what he could show them.

Bennie asked to see his line of silverware, flat ware, for he wanted to get knives and forks and spoons. So with the aid of Hannah, whose judgment and taste he depended in, selected a set of table-ware which was put up in a beautiful plush case and made a pretty as well as useful gift. This off their mind, Bennie requested to see some diamonds.

The salesman was pleased to cater to his wants and showed tray after tray of diamond rings of every size and style of setting. "Hannah, do you see any ring you would like," said Bennie. "Yes, Bennie, I do, but you select my ring and I shall be pleased with your choice."

Bennie hesitated for an instant, as this was a strange experience for him and he wanted Hannah to have a ring she would be proud of. So he asked the prices of several rings and finally selected one which was a beauty and of high value.

He handed it to Hannah and she accepted it with a loving smile, which to Bennie meant more than words. "Yes, Bennie, I am well pleased, but can you afford that much just now?"

Bennie told her that he had been looking forward to getting her ring for some time, and had written that he was saving his money for another purpose, and it was—Your Betrothal ring.

The ring was paid for and placed in a pretty box which Bennie handed to Hannah, as she took it she placed it in her hand-bag, saying, "I shall put it on later, when we can have a quiet talk, at Aunt Sarah's."

Having their shopping-completed, they went to get Hannah's traveling bag.

They now boarded a car for West Philadelphia and soon arrived at Aunt Sarah's where they are waiting supper on them.

Bennie proudly presented Hannah to his relatives who were pleased to meet her, especially Aunt Sarah, who had heard so much about Hannah from Bennie. She was overjoyed to think that Bennie was keeping company with this talented young lady, for Hannah Sharp was exceptionally refined and dignified and was a perfect lady at all times.

After supper was over, Hannah and Bennie showed Aunt Sarah what they had selected for Harry, and Aunt Sarah was pleased with their selection, saying it was elegant and would be appreciated. Not a word was said about the ring for Bennie wanted Hannah to mention it first. During the evening Hannah had won the confidence of them all for she had a pleasing disposition and attracted people to her.

A little later, Hannah asked Bennie where they could go to have a quiet talk. So Bennie told her to wait and he would ask auntie. He found her in another room and she told him to take Hannah up to the sewing room on the second floor, and they would not be disturbed.

So Bennie and Hannah retire to the sewing room, where Hannah said, "Now, Bennie dear, you have bought me a betrothal ring, but before I wear it, I want you to make me a promise."

"What kind of promise do you want me to make, Hannah dear," said Bennie. "That you promise to refrain from intoxicants of any kind from now on, and so live a better life, and in the event that you

break your vow with me, then I shall break mine with you."

Bennie agreed that was no more than right, and that he could not expect her to become his wife if he degraded himself and led a life of drunkenness. "I solemnly swear to you, Hannah dear, that I will not partake of any intoxicants at any time, but wait a minute, dear till I get Aunt Sarah."

Before Hannah could detain him, he was gone, he ran downstairs, he rushed into the dining room and caught Aunt Sarah in his arms, saying, "Come up stairs, you are wanted on important business."

Aunt Sarah asked no questions but went along with Bennie, for that dear soul would do anything within reason to please him, for she loved him, for his dear mother's sake. He told her what Hannah wanted him to do and that he wanted her to be a witness.

"So now I repeat. "I solemnly swear to you, Hannah dear, that I will not partake of any intoxicants of any nature, at any time, and should I break my vow, then Hannah will be at liberty to break her vow with me."

Aunt Sarah prevented any further speech by saying she thought what she had just heard to be the grandest understanding that she had ever heard between any couple before marriage, "But I see the motive. Why Hannah (if you will allow me to call you by that name) is doing this, from the fact that it will be for your welfare, as well as her own. Not likely that any young lady is going to throw her whole life away in drudgery and degradation, and it is for you, my dear boy, to keep this solemn vow, if you love her, as I know you do."

As Aunt Sarah finished speaking, she got up as though she was ready to leave, but Hannah asked her to be seated again. Then Hannah took the ring out of her hand bag and gave it to Bennie, holding out her hand, Bennie placed the ring on her finger, and taking her in his arms gave her a betrothal

kiss. Aunt Sarah kissed them both and congratulated Bennie and wished Hannah great joy and much happiness.

They went down stairs together, and Aunt Sarah called them all together in the living room. Having the family assembled she announced the engagement of Hannah Sharp and Bennie Gregory, saying "Futhermore Miss Sharp has promised to be his wife within a year."

Some of the boys cried out, "Bennie, you are a lucky dog. Oh you, Bennie." Many congratulations were uttered and well wishes for a happy courtship and many blessings were bestowed upon them for Bennie was a favorite and they knew he loved and idolized Hannah.

But we shall see.

Games were played and a social evening was spent, every one seemed to enjoy it and after a dainty lunch was served, they separated for the night, wishing the newly engaged couple happiness.

Aunt Sarah took Hannah to her room for she was to spend the night there or rather, the week end. So after the others had all retired, Uncle Joe had a talk with Bennie, telling him it was up to him, alone, to make this young woman happy, "For my boy, you will have to turn over a new leaf and keep on the straight and narrow path. It is up to you. Bennie, whether you make her life happy or otherwise. So you must change your tactics, or you will lose her. Remember that, from an old fool."

The next day being Sunday, there was no need for early rising. So they had late breakfast and the children went to Sunday School and the grown ups went to Church. Aunt Sarah was pleased to take Hannah and of course Bennie went too.

Monday morning, Harry and Uncle Joe went to work but Bennie intended to take Hannah home so he did not rise early as usual. Aunt Sarah called them for later breakfast as she had one child to send to school and two to go to work in the store. After

they had gone Hannah and Bennie had a quiet breakfast with Aunt Sarah who was attached to Hannah and was telling her about Mother Gregory, and the attachment between mother and son.

Hannah regretted that she had not met Bennie's mother, but hoped to do so later. They enjoyed a breakfast of poached eggs, buttered toast and cereals and coffee. Hannah complemented Aunt Sarah on her cooking and invited her to visit at Chester and meet her mother, who would be pleased to know her.

Bennie told Hannah that Aunt Sarah was just like his dear mother in many ways and how disappointed she was in not meeting you as she passed through on her way to the Virginias. "I would love to meet her and know we will be friends."

But it was not to be. We shall see.

Breakfast over, Hannah began preparations for leaving as her train left at eleven ten for Chester. About ten thirty Hannah bid Aunt Sarah a loving goodbye and Bennie and Hannah started for town and to the station, where Bennie got her ticket and they had a few minutes to talk over the future events.

Bennie told her how he would like her to come back to meet his mother as they would only be in Philadelphia a few hours and could not go to Chester to see her, so if it would be possible at all for her to come. Hannah promised to do this if all is well.

Bennie was elated at this promise and he knew his mother would love Hannah for his sake, as she was anxious to see Bennie settled in a home with a good wife whom she knew he loved and adored. By this time the train was called and Bennie took Hannah into the chair car and seeing her comfortable, he kissed her a loving good-bye and started out, just as the train began to move. He watched it out of sight and then feeling lonely, he makes his way to the car and goes straight home, for he does not trust himself, he does not want to encount-

er any of his old associates, for had he not made a sacred vow to Hannah, that he would lead a noble life and not partake of any intoxicants. Yes, and he must keep this vow at all hazards.

Arriving home, he finds Aunt Sarah all alone and she greets him with a smile, saying, "Now, Bennie, make or break yourself, your own actions will be for or against, and I am going to do, as I have always done, help you to win, so fight, and the harder the battle, the greater the victory."

"Yes, auntie," said Bennie, "I will win." "Oh, Bennie, I almost forgot, here is a letter which came shortly after you left with Hannah, it is from your dear mother." On opening the letter Bennie was surprised to read that his parents and the children would be leaving the following week for the Virginias.

He was glad, however to note that they would arrive about three o'clock and leave for Washington D. C. about seven thirty that same evening. Also that Millie would remain with Aunt Sarah as she had accepted a position as clerk in one of the stores.

When Harry came in from work, Bennie handed him his mother's letter, and after reading it he said, "I'm sorry Father and Mother will not be here for our wedding, as we will not be married for ten days yet."

That evening Amelia and her husband brought the baby to call on Aunt Sarah, and to inform her that her folks would pay a short visit in Philadelphia, the next Monday. She did not know about Bennie's letter so thought she was first to break the news. She said she thought of calling over the phone, but as it was a pleasant evening they decided to take the baby out, "As I was anxious to see you all, for Aunt Sarah, I miss you so much, and get homesick to see you."

"Why can't you come over to see us once in a while, auntie, bring Uncle Joe and the children any time, for we are always glad to see you." "Well, my

dear, I'll try to come soon, but you see I have practically all the work to do, myself, these days and with four men to feed and the children to look after, I am quite busy."

"Yes, auntie, I realize that, but you should get away once in awhile." The conversation turned to the Gregory home, and they thought of how busy Mother and Father Gregory were, packing and crating their furniture to ship a long distance, for The Virginias was quite a long ways off.

John Gregory and Clyde had quit working and were busy helping get things ready to leave, for Arthur Thomas had sent word to come at once, bag and baggage, so John Gregory was losing no time, for there was a magnetic attraction drawing John Gregory and Arthur Thomas together, for where Arthur Thomas was, you would find John Gregory, for he was a real son to the Gregory family and would share anything he had with them, at all times.

This liking was mutual and Arthur called his father-in-law Old man, but with no dis-respect, whatever. No matter what was on hand to do, Arthur Thomas would tell the foreman, "Send the Old man and it will be done—and done right."

John Gregory had his faults, but who has not? He had a weakness, which it seemed he could not overcome, or whether he tried very hard to overcome it, we can not say, but we do know that he was to be depended on, a man you could put on a job and know it could be done right, or not at all, and he seldom failed in his endeavors. We are led astray oftimes by the people we associate with, and make mistakes, but find a man who has never made a mistake, and we will put him on a pedestal, for he will be a momument to look at. Why? We make mistakes and very often gain experience by so doing, and profit thereby. For when we meet the same condition we avoid making the mistake a second time.

Bennie lost no time in writing to Hannah, telling her about the short stay his people would have in Philadelphia, and asking her to arrange to come the following Monday and meet his mother and the rest of the Gregory family. He told her he would meet her at the station and hoped she could come.

When Hannah returned from her visit she found her dear mother sick in bed and she was indeed anxious about her, although her mother was in delicate health she was seldom bed-fast. So when Hannah got Bennie's letter asking her to come, she was grieved for she felt it would be almost impossible to go at that time and leave her mother alone. She told her mother all about its contents and her mother said, "I shall get along nicely, dear, go for it will only be for a day or two and I can get along, it may be your only chance to meet Bennie's Mother and Father." This was true.

She did not see Bennie's people. Why? We shall see.

Hannah did not leave her mother, but stayed right there and nursed her with great care for she loved her mother dearly, and could not leave her in this condition. Instead, she wrote a letter to him telling how sorry she was that she could not come and see his mother, as she felt it her duty to care for her mother at this time, but that she hoped to have the pleasure of seeing all his folks in the very near future. But that time never come.

We shall see.

Uncle Joe, Bennie and Harry were working every day, and Harry had tried different times to get something else to do, but with no success, so he decided to go west shortly after the wedding, so he was saving to that end. He was anxious to get back to his own line of work, as he could do much better. On Saturday evening pay day for our men, we find them all home early, even Uncle Joe.

Aunt Sarah was indeed pleasantly surprised, for while she expected to see Bennie, she did not

think that Joe would come straight home, as he usually lingered a little to get a drink on his way home. She had sent out her helpful thought to Bennie, that he be strong enough to resist temptations that would be thrown in his way. She was glad he had won.

Aunt Sarah being a model house-keeper had meals on time and as soon as the men were ready she served supper and all was well. Harry went out as usual to see Elizabeth, and to her surprise, Joe remained at home all evening. Bennie never said a word to anyone but started out. Later in the evening he was accosted by some of his old associates who tried to persuade Bennie to take a drink, but he refused, flatly. They kept after him till finally, he knew not how, but he took a drink, and that is all he remembered, for late that night, some of his associates brought him home in a drunken state.

Can we trust such a man? One who has made a sacred vow, and now broken it at the first temptation. WE SHALL SEE.

Being Sunday Aunt Sarah did not disturb him, for she knew by experience just how he would feel after a night of drinking. So about eleven o'clock she went to his room and found him awake, but still in bed, he said, "Auntie, dear, what will Hannah think of me if she knows of this, you will not tell her, will you,"

"No, Bennie dear, for your mother's sake, and for your sake, I shall not tell her, but do you think it right for me not to tell her, after you promised so faithfully to keep the sacred vow you made to her?"

"I know, auntie, it is not right, so may God help me from the snares and pitfalls, that ever surround me, but if you will not tell her, I will promise you never to do the like again. Promise me this request, auntie, dear."

"Well Bennie, I promise, and it all depends on

your future conduct, for it is not just or right to Hannah, to deceive her."

Monday morning all the men went to work but came home at noon, for the Gregory family were due in Philadelphia about three o'clock and our folks wanted to have all the time possible to spend with them. So when dinner was over Aunt Sarah wanted to know who were going to the station.

Uncle Joe told her that Harry and Elizabeth were going, and that Amelia and her husband would come over from Camden, and that Bennie and himself were counting on being there to greet them. "So they will all come home with us, dear."

This arrangement pleased Aunt Sarah for now she would make preparations and have everything in order when they came. But she felt she must have a talk with Bennie before he left. So she called him, and he answered that he was upstairs.

So this good soul goes to his room and tells him she must tell him about Saturday night's affair. Bennie, Bennie, I thought I could trust you, but I have found out differently. I want to warn you. if you ever come home in such a state of drunkenness again, then I shall see that Hannah is informed of your doings. I am surprised at you—you—in whom I have had so much faith.

Do you realize what you will sacrifice? Do you mean to tell me you love Hannah? Do you realize that in that vow you said, "If I break my promise to you. I do not expect you to keep your vow and marry me within a year?"

"I know, auntie it is hard for you to have any faith in my promises, but never again will you have reason to reprimand me for acting like I have done you may rely on me, auntie.

I want to tell you, I could not do so yesterday, for I was ashamed of myself, but auntie, I refused to drink many times that night, but later when some of the old associates insisted and I kept on refusing, till finally, I can not say how it happened,

but I had a drink and that is all I remember. I do not know how many more I had, and know nothing more till I found myself in bed on Sunday morning."

"But that is no excuse, and I do not ask to be excused, for I had no business to be with those men, for I promised to lead a noble life, and Hannah expects me to give up these old associates who make it so hard for me to keep straight. Why I listened to them I can not say. But auntie dear, I mean to say right here, I shall stand firm, and from now on keep the vow I made to the One I love."

WE SHALL SEE.

The folks started for the station and all were there when the train pulled in and such greetings as were exchanged, one would think these people had been separated for years instead of a matter of a month or so, but such was the love they had for one another. They inquired about trains for Washington, D. C., and decided that they would make about as good time in the end if they stayed over in Philadelphia, for the night and leave on the first train in the morning, so that was settled.

They boarded a car and soon are on their way to meet Aunt Sarah, who is anxiously waiting and watching for them. No sooner are they settled than Uncle Joe tells his wife that the folks will spend the night, and how glad she is, for she had hoped they would do so.

Such talking and telling of the arrangements made by Peggy's husband to have her folks near them. John Gregory was well satisfied, knowing Arthur Thomas would see that all would be well for them. Millie was pleased to know that she was to be one of Aunt Sarah's house-hold from now on, as Amelia was in Camden and it was not so convenient for her to get to work from there.

Bennie was especially glad to have Millie in Philadelphia, for he could spend some of his time with her and thus keep away from old associates.

He told how disappointed he was in not being able to have Hannah meet the folks, but that her mother required her care and he felt it was her duty to care for her mother, so Mother Gregory wondered if she would have time to call on Hannah with Bennie, but this was impossible.

Aunt Sarah had much to tell her sister, and many loving thoughts were exchanged during their short stay. Bennie realized that it would be some time before his parents would come back to Philadelphia, for he understood the attachment between his father and Arthur Thomas. They were as close as brothers, in spite of the difference in their ages. And they recalled what John Gregory said on leaving them, "Where Arthur is, I shall be also, and I know I am welcome."

The evening passed all too quickly and it seemed as though there was so much to crowd into such a short space of time. But Uncle Joe informed the boys that they would not go to work in the morning, so they could devote all their time to the visitors. Late that night Harry takes Elizabeth home and Amelia and her husband stayed all night. How happy Mother Gregory was to see Amelias dear little daughter.

She was so sorry that they would not be able to attend Harry's wedding but she promised Bennie she would be at his, when that time came, but WE SHALL SEE. John Gregory was relating all about Arthur and his work, how he expected to work for him, just as soon as they were settled in their new surroundings. "So, Joe, it will be a long time before I see you again." This was true, but John Gregory did not know it at the time he made that assertion.

But we shall see.

Mother Gregory answered, Yes, that is true, for as you all know that Arthur and Johnny are closely drawn to one another and there is a something that always makes one feel welcome: for Ar-

thur Thomas is kindness itself, his very presence makes you feel that he is sincere and he offers us the hand of fellowship and brotherly love." As Mother Gregory said this, all eyes were upon her, for they were surprised and amazed but they knew it was true.

Just before Harry and Elizabeth left, Mother Gregory offered her congratulations and wished them much happiness in their love for one another, "and I ask and implore the Wise Creator of the Universe to brighten your pathway through life, that you may journey on, without the disturbances that usually surround us, and ask God to bless you, my children." This was the Soul expression of Mother Gregory for the benefit of Harry and Elizabeth, who were so soon to take the sacred vow in matrimony.

Elizabeth and Harry drank it all in and thanked their mother for her advice and prayers in their behalf. Marie, who was quite young sat and wondered at her mother's speech and prayerful blessing for she loved her mother dearly, and it is needless to say Mother Gregory gave all her children a motherly love akin to Divine Love.

Bennie was not permitted to retire without a little talk in private with his mother who was waiting for the others to go to their room and then she would have her Bennie to herself. So when he started for his room, she asked to go with him and so arm in arm they ascended the stairs and entering his room, closed the door.

Bennie knew he was in for a loving lecture and as soon as they were seated she said, "Bennie, my boy, as we are about to leave these surroundings, I want you to try and lead an upright life, from what I hear about your work from Uncle Joe, it is gratifying indeed, and I am pleased to learn that your employers are well pleased with your services, and I am told you stand in line for a much

better opening in the near future. So, my boy, do not mis-place their trust in you.

If you will listen to my Guiding Voice in the Silence, I will impress you what to do at all times, for I shall always be with you, both when asleep and in your waking moments, so take heed to what I say, and I shall pray for your welfare, at all times. for having that Faith in Him who doeth all things well, I have that confidence that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us. And if we know that He hears us, we know we have our petitions granted.

For He has told us, "That all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer—believing—ye shall receive." Is that not consolation to you, my boy?"

"Yes, mother dear, it is, and I am going to heed Your Guiding Voice, and I shall also ask and invoke the aid of the Infinite Intelligence to direct my path, to keep me in the narrow path—warn me when I go astray—plead within me when I pray, Loving Guiding Spirit."

CHAPTER XV

THE GREGORY FAMILY LEAVE PHILADELPHIA.

BENNIE VISITS HANNAH AT HER HOME.

The next morning everyone was busy getting ready for the departure, grips were packed, and all was ready. Aunt Sarah was loathe to see her sister leave, but Mother Gregory was anxious to be with Johnny, and of course the summons had come and John Gregory was glad to know they would soon be with Arthur again.

So the house was locked up and the entire family went to the station. A loving group, indeed and Aunt Sarah said, "Margaret, I feel it will be a long time before me meet again, and I am glad we had this little visit." Arriving at the station they had about twenty minutes to wait and there was so much to say.

When fare-wells were exchanged and the time came to board the train, we find Mother Gregory turning to Bennie, her oldest son. As the train started, she waved her hand to him as the tears rolled down her cheeks. For was she not going away from her beloved child, away from all her loved ones, going to new surroundings and environments, and strange conditions. But she left a loving thought with them. She would not forget them and they would never forget her or her family.

As she said to them on parting, "Write often and I shall answer, for as the days go by we find that **Absence makes the heart grow fonder.**" So it was with our good Mother Gregory, for she had hardly reached her destination before she was longing to look into their loving faces.

The journey was quite long but our friends had much to ponder over, so the transfers were made

and in due time they arrive at their journeys end, Staunton, Virginia. Here they were greeted by Peggy and Arthur for they were loyal and so anxious to see them. Mother Gregory missed the children but was told they were well but were in the care of a nurse whom they were fortunate enough to obtain shortly after getting settled.

Such a welcome! Mother Gregory and her family were shown how much they were missed, for strangers seeing the meeting would conclude that these good people had been separated for a long time instead of barely two months. Peggy missed Millie but she was glad to know she was to stay with Aunt Sarah and work in Philadelphia.

So The Gregory family were escorted to the Thomas home where they were made to feel at home and how happy the Thomas children were to see them all, for they loved their grand-parents and uncles and aunts. So we find Mother Gregory satisfied to be with her dear child once more and they soon feel at home for Arthur has taken his father-in-law into his confidence and so John Gregory is happy, for he is again in touch with one he idolizes.

Mother and daughter have their little talk and finally Mother Gregory said, "Teresa, our family is getting smaller, there is only Clyde and little Marie left with us, now, for one by one they leave to do for themselves, and soon there will be just your father and I left, then we will be just where we started."

Arthur came into the room just as Mother Gregory said this so he said, "Well Mother, is it not a gratification to you to know they are getting married and settled in homes of their own? If Bennie would marry soon, you would be better satisfied, would you not?" But this will never be.

WE SHALL SEE.

Peggy busied herself getting supper ready and of course Mother Gregory turned up her sleeves and began to help, but Peggy told her to lie down

and rest as she was tired after her long trip. But she might just as well have saved her words for her mother heeded her not but went on helping. Marie, the pride of the family was helping too, for we find all the Gregory children willing workers and many hands make light work.

John Gregory and Arthur were talking about the progress that had been made and all about the contract on hand, for John was listening with adoration to his son-in-law and drank it all in. But Arthur paused a moment and laid his hand on John Gregory's shoulder then he said, "I want to tell you right from the beginning Old Man, that there is to be no excessive drinking, while I do not mind you taking a drink of beer when you desire it, but you must not use whiskey, for if you do you will have me to deal with here after."

John Gregory opened his eyes and after some reflection he laughed and said, "All right, Arthur, it is just as you say." It shall be, and so it was. Although there was quite a difference in their ages, there was true feeling of brotherly love between these two men. Mother Gregory loved Arthur as much as if he was an only son, and not merely a son-in-law. Needless to say this love was returned in full measure.

That night Mother Gregory wrote a letter to Bennie, telling of their safe arrival and that all the folks were well and glad to see them. She told how the children enquired after Uncle Bennie. "So now Bennie dear, I want you to write and inform me of your behavior, your progress in your work, and I shall send you my loving thoughts at all times and guide you, Bennie, dear, but you must heed my Guiding Voice. I shall make every effort to lead you in the right path and shall pray for your welfare and those around you. I am enclosing a little hymn which I know will aid you if you sing it when alone, for this will bring you in harmony with those

about you, and will draw to you loving entities who will ever help you in all truth."

"Thou art the Way, The Truth, The Life,
Grant us that Way to know,
That Truth to keep, that life to win,
Whose joys eternal flow."

"When you feel dull and lonely, and when the way seems hard, Bennie, then repeat that little hymn and I know you will feel refreshed, my boy."

On receiving his letter, Bennie read and re-read it many times, he had retired to his room and in the Silence he pondered and meditated long and earnestly thinking of that dear soul, his loving mother, who was always ready to help him and advise him, urging, even pleading with him to lead a noble and upright life. How often he had given her his promise to try and do better, to give up his old associates and heed Her Guiding Voice.

He was thoroughly ashamed of himself for he knew he was degrading himself and not making the least attempt to better his condition, or to throw off the obstacles which impeded his progress. After some time thus reflecting, Bennie came down stairs and handed Aunt Sarah his letter, saying, "Read mother's letter auntie," she took the letter and did so then Bennie said, "Auntie, my mother is ever trying to aid me, to impress me to break away from my old associates, whom she so rightly compares to a great Octopus with its many claws drawing me down, down deeper and deeper into the mire each day. How she reaches out to me with her loving thoughts at all times."

Tears rolled down his cheeks as he said, "I am ashamed of myself, Auntie, for time after time I have made my dear mother a promise to heed HER Guiding Voice. I must break away from this condition before I am entirely submerged in its depths."

His aunt looked at him and sympathized with him for she said, "Yes, Bennie, do try and break

away from these associates and you will win, my boy. What a blessing it is to any man or boy to have such a loving mother as you have, Bennie, one who tries to encourage and inspire you to live a just and upright life, and I know that she would gladly lay down her life for you."

Bennie was discouraged with himself, so he got up and went to his room and to bed. Millie was to have a little vacation before starting to work, so she had gone to Camden with her sister Amelia to spend a few days, as she would start work the following Monday. She met many friends while here who were glad to know Amelia's sister for most of them knew Peggy too.

During this time, preparations were going on for the wedding, which was to take place at Elizabeth's home. When the day came all the men went to work excepting Harry, who was busy getting all arrangements made for this important event. By seven thirty all the friends had assembled and at eight o'clock the wedding march was played and all eyes watched the stairway, for leaning on the arm of her dear father, Elizabeth, dressed in a flowing gown of white silk and carrying a bunch of orange blossoms came slowly into the parlor where her pastor, an elderly man, stood ready to unite these two loving souls.

The ceremony over, congratulations were given to Harry and well wishes for Elizabeth were exchanged so we next find the party, in the huge dining-room where an elaborate wedding supper was served. The entire evening was spent in a social way and after midnight the guests departed wishing Mr. and Mrs. Gregory a long and happy wedded life, with health and success in their undertakings.

The next morning, after Aunt Sarah had her men off to work and the children off to school, she sat down and wrote a long loving letter to her dear sister, Mother Gregory, telling her in detail all about Harry's wedding, how lovely Elizabeth looked

and how manly Harry was and what a fine couple they were.

She went on telling about Bennie, and that he intended to visit Hannah the next Sunday. She told how he mentioned his mother's goodness at all times how ashamed he was to think he was so weak. "I hope you and John are getting along nicely in your new surroundings, but I feel you are contented, because you are with Teresa and Arthur and your dear little grand-children who love you."

Thus Aunt Sarah expressed herself in her message to her sister, whom she knew everybody loved, for she filled them with a something which they were unable to name, but all who came in touch with Mother Gregory felt her influence and were lifted up. For this dear soul did kind and loving deeds from day to day, always ready to aid those in need, especially in sickness, for many a poor soul were made well by her very presence, for she was endowed with a magnetic power to sway and inspire. This magnetism was better than all the medicine the patient could take, and her words of comfort were a God-send to many weary souls.

Two days later Mother Gregory received the letter telling all about the wedding, as she thought over it she felt how much she would have liked to be there but as that was impossible, she sent out her kind thoughts for their happiness. We find Mother Gregory loathe to leave her husband and the Thomas family at this time and so she contented herself in the knowledge that Harry has a kind and loving wife, for she learned to love Elizabeth when they were together in Philadelphia.

She was glad to hear the news that Bennie was doing nicely and abstaining from drink. She gave the letter to her daughter, Teresa and she, too, was glad to hear about the event and especially that Bennie was on his good behavior.

At supper that night, Mother Gregory related her news and said it was very thoughtful of Sarah

to write at once and then looking at her husband she said, "Johnny, I think it will be Bennie, next time and that will be one of the happiest moments of my life." Arthur answered her and said, "Yes that will be a blessing to see Bennie settled in a nice home with a good wife, and I know, Mother, that you will then be more contented and peaceful for that is your earnest desire for him."

"Yes, Arthur dear," said she, "as you truly say, my mind would be at rest, in peace, whereas now, I do not know what may befall him." But if Mother Gregory only knew Bennie's fate, and what was in store for him, we would sympathize with her, for that dear soul was to be dis-appointed once more. For the hand of fate was again to play a prominent part in Bennie's life ere long.

WE SHALL SEE.

Bennie had written to Hannah asking her to come on for the wedding, hoping that her mother's health would permit her to come away. Hannah answered that she was indeed sorry, but her mother's condition would not warrant her leaving her at this time, "Although Bennie, she is improving, but slowly."

"But Bennie, dear, why can't you come on Saturday evening and spend the week-end here with us for Father and Mother are anxious to see you, dear. So if it is convenient for you to do so, and you let me know when to expect you, I shall meet you at the station. Mother is some better and wants to see you, so be good, Bennie, I hope to see you soon, I am always yours—Lovingly—Hannah."

The following evening when Bennie and his uncle came in from work, Aunt Sarah handed him his letter, thanking her, he hurried up stairs to be alone while reading it, for he loved to receive a letter from Hannah for it always encouraged him and inspired him to go on and lead a better life. So smiling to himself he said, "Yes, I shall go to Chester and spend the week-end with Hannah."

So after dressing for supper he ran down stairs and into the kitchen, to tell his good news, so he put his arms around Aunt Sarah and embraced her as he kissed her. Aunt Sarah laughingly said, "What's gone wrong now, Bennie?"

So Bennie told her that he intended to visit at Hannah's home over the week-end, so that is why I was so rude as to kiss you, auntie, but you don't mind, do you, auntie, dear?"

"Oh, no, Bennie dear," said she, "I would do anything to see you happy in each others love, for like your mother, dear, I am longing to see the day when you and Hannah are married and settled down." She meant every word she said, too.

Harry and his wife were living with her people, for as they intended going west as far as Colorado, they did not deem it wise to set up house-keeping. So Amelia and her husband and little daughter called to see her new sister-in-law at her home and how happy Elizabeth's mother was to receive Harry's people, and asked them to visit her even if Harry and Elizabeth go away.

Millie had taken up her work and liked clerking very much but most of all she liked the people for whom she worked and she felt in harmony. She wrote to her dear mother and sister Peggy, telling all about her short visit with Amelia in Camden, New Jersey and that she found them all well and the baby Helen was a sweet child whom all were attracted to and loved.

She inquired about her father and Arthur, and hoped they were getting along well together. She missed Marie and asked her to write for she was longing for her, as they had never been parted before, and when she stopped to think of things, she realized they were far apart, but close in thought for all that.

"Harry and his wife are living at her home for the present but intend to leave for Colorado soon. I am also writing to Peggy and Mother dear, let me

hear from you soon, soon soon. With love to all,

Your Loving Daughter—Millie.

P. S. Mother dear, Bennie is going to spend the week end at Hannah's home. I think we shall have another wedding soon, hope so at least, I know you will be glad to hear about Bennie, and I almost forgot to mention it."—Millie.

Bennie had written to Hannah telling her he would leave Philadelphia on the two fifteen train for Chester and hoped she would meet him at the station. On Saturday morning as he was starting out for work, he told his aunt that he would be home about half past twelve as he intended to leave on the early train for Chester.

Aunt Sarah told him that would be very well and that she would have his things all ready for him so he need lose no time. Bennie appreciated this kindness, and felt that she devoted her entire life in doing good for others, for she was a loving soul, just like his dear mother.

If Bennie needed advice, if he was burdened with troubles, in coming in contact with his associates, or advice of any nature, he would go to Aunt Sarah, she it was, that true loving soul, in the absence of his mother, whom she was like in many ways.

We all know that some troubles are only seemingly so, and we say we are crossing bridges before we come to them. But on the whole, the majority of the human race want to tell their troubles to some one else, and so it was with these two souls Aunt Sarah was assuring Bennie that she would carry his burden for a little while, so as to relieve him. So we find this to be the case with many human beings, if they are troubled and can go to some one in whom they place implicit confidence and tell all, they are immediately lightened in heart and their burden seems lighter, too.

Their path in life becomes brighter. So it was with Bennie, he placed implicit confidence and Trust

in Aunt Sarah. * (The writer wishes to mention that he has an article before the public on "IN WHOM WE TRUST")

Bennie arrived on time and was met by his Aunt Sarah who smiled to see him so eager to get away on his mission of love, for such it really was. He told her about his prospects and that he was making a grand success on the job he was now on and that Uncle Joe was lauding his work, "But auntie I have not the time to tell you, so uncle can explain to you fully, for this means much to me, auntie, at this time."

By this time Bennie was dressed and had eaten a hurried lunch, so was ready to leave, taking his traveling bag which that dear soul had packed for him, he took her in his arms and kissed her lovingly. Then he hurried away.

He found that his car was late and now he would have to rush to make the train, and sure enough he merely boarded it having no time to secure a ticket. He thought to himself, how dis-appointed Hannah would be if he missed this train. He did not want to cause her the slightest worry if he could help it. But we find the time is coming when he does dis-appoint her, but he does not realize it as yet.

WE SHALL SEE.

As the train stopped at Chester, Bennie was all eyes, looking for Hannah. Finally he caught a glimpse of her smiling face, all aglow with love's token and unspoken words. As he alighted, she came towards him and greeted him with a loving kiss and said she was glad to see him, for as she said, "Bennie dear, it seems an age since I saw you in Philadelphia, hope you are well, dear?"

"Yes, Hannah, dear, I am feeling fine, but first let me know how your dear mother is?" Hannah told him that her mother was recovering slowly for owing to her age, it will take time to rebuild and recuperate her vitality, which ebbs and flows.

As Hannah's home was but a few blocks from the station, it was not necessary to take a car, so Bennie relates to Hannah how dis-appointed his dear mother was in not being able to visit her and her mother, but that they could not stop over long enough to make the visit. Then he told her that he had promised his mother that we would visit her in Staunton, Virginia in the near future.

But we shall see.

Arriving at her home Bennie was greeted by Hannah's father who welcomed him. Then she took Bennie up stairs to see her mother who was anxiously waiting for him, as she was just as anxious as Hannah to see him and have a long talk with him. As he approached the bed he extended his hand but she asked him to come closer to her and as he complied, she gave him a motherly kiss.

Mrs. Sharp was attracted to Bennie, and it was she who advised Hannah to give him a chance to explain fully, and to give him the benefit of the doubt. So it was through the influence of her mother that Bennie was protected from tale-bearers Hannah had heard on several occasions that Bennie had been drinking, and it was her dear mother who talked to her and made her see it was not right to judge him on hearsay, especially if she loved him, and her mother knew she did, so Bennie was to explain these things.

"We all have our faults, dear, who has not? So let us look into the matter and then decide." Thus she advised Hannah, this loving Soul, Mrs. Sharp, who lay on a bed of sickness, so when Hannah found out the truth of the matter, she found Bennie had been painted blacker than he really was.

Bennie inquired about Mrs. Sharp's health, saying she was looking pretty well and that he hoped she would be up and around in a few days. He then told her he would love to find another job in Chester like the one he had some time ago, "Then I could see you every evening and we would both be

benefitted, for you are like my own dear mother and Aunt Sarah."

"Hannah, dear, don't you know loving remembrances brighten a person's life and is the best medicine in the world." Mother Sharp looked at Bennie as he made this remark and smiled her assent.

"Yes, that is true and we should try to brighten each others life, by doing a kindness when you can, in word or deed and it will reflect back to the donor."

Hannah's mother said to Bennie, "now my boy I want you to make yourself at home, and spend most of your time with me, Hannah will not care, she will spare me the time, and now as you understand each other better, and I know your love is mutual so I am hoping you will soon be man and wife.

On the other hand I do not see how I can let Hannah leave me, she is such a big help, but I feel and have that consolation that you, my boy, will love her and look after her welfare, so that assures me and places my mind in a state of rest and peacefulness."

Thus Hannah's mother expressed her Soul's desire, and Bennie promised Mother Sharp to spend as much time as possible with her while on this visit, and he did. But there were times, hours at a stretch when Mother Sharp would doze in peaceful slumber. So Bennie had some quiet moments with Hannah, and yet was able to keep his promise with her mother.

It was quite late when the house-hold retired and Mr. Sharp said, "Well Bennie I have had little chance to talk to you but to-morrow we will have more time." The next morning found Hannah up bright and early, getting breakfast and waiting on her mother.

This was a loving family, Father, Mother and Daughter, one in three, and three in one. There was a deep love binding these souls in unity, for they

live for one another, to be of service to each other, and to humanity in general.

Hannah served her mother and then called her Father and Bennie to breakfast so the three of them ate together, for Mother Sharp was not present at the table, Mr. Sharp and Bennie had a nice long chat while Hannah straightened up and prepared things for dinner. Bennie managed to be with her as often as possible and these two exchanged smiles and when the opportunity presented itself she would give him a loving kiss.

Bennie divided his time as best he could but if Mother Sharp was awake he would sit by her side relating the things in which she was interested. He told her about his work and the opportunities ahead of him. How he was planning a home for Hannah, where they could have her visit them as often as she liked. He told in glowing terms his love for Hannah and how he would always try to be worthy of her love. Mother Sharp would lie quietly and listen to him, for it pleased her to hear him thus express himself.

She told Bennie that she felt that he had a deep, deep love for Hannah which was adoration, and that was why she had so much faith in him and could place her trust in him. She looked at him and said, "Bennie, dear, while I have known you but a short time, yet you are attracted to me, and that is a natural law."

"As we grow older, we become more toleant, seeing more that we can understand, and learning the art of forgiving more quickly. Again nature screens us with her wisdom, and shows us that her sun-sets are more gorgeous than her sun-risings. Each day brings us to a state which makes us more lovable human beings for the benefit of those about us.

The more we love our friends the less we see in them to find fault with and to criticize. The closer we get to them in helpfulness and understand-

ing, the finer they appear. For after all, the things we criticize in others are but plainer pictures of the same feeling in ourselves. And it works both ways,—for we are attracted (by the law of attraction) to those who appeal to our inner selves,—to the beauty and the strength of character—by their kindness and generosity, which reflects light up on the same quality in us.”

“Yes, Bennie, that has always been my motto, my principle through life, and I have always done my duty to my family at all times, I have tried to instill this principle in Hannah’s mind, and she acted upon it, thanks to the Infinite Spirit.

Bennie was all attention, all eyes and ears, for it was knowledge and wisdom to him, for it seemed he was listening to his Mother’s Guiding Voice, listening to one of her lectures, and so we find Mother Sharp inspiring him with noble and kind thoughts.

Bennie agreed with her and said, “If a person lives up to precepts like those, he would be led to lead a noble life of worth, and one he need never be ashamed of.”

“You mentioned about your work and your opportunities ahead of you. You have found your work an incentive to higher ideals in life. We take an empty house and find it left vacant and no care taken of it that it will soon crumble—machinery not in use and left exposed soon rusts and becomes useless, for only things that are used, last. I do not say overtax, which would be detrimental.

Vacancy in life is seeped with trouble and tragedy. Go were you will, you will find it eating the good away from the Soul of him who has it, and at the same time spreading its tentacles to reach other lives.

Therefore, work, on the other hand, my boy, is a stimulant and the more work you do, the more you will want to do. For each day will seem too short, and life itself, so very brief in which to accomplish the tasks most desired.

That desire, so dear to your heart may be to secure higher positions, to build and construct a home for your love (Hannah), that would be your desire and incentive in life, and you push ahead."

Bennie was dumbfounded, as he listened to these sayings as they flowed from Mother Sharp's lips, for she was a truthful loving soul, trying to advise him, as she inspired him to go on and lead a higher and nobler life.

Bennie was wishing that Hannah could have enjoyed this talk, too, but she was busy. "Well," said Bennie, "I have enjoyed your advice and I know every word you uttered to be absolutely true. You seem to speak with the same understanding as my dear mother, for many, many times has she advised me along the same line of thought as you have. And I shall always remember your loving thought and advice, and shall try to follow it out in word and deed.

"I shall pray to the Father for the tender mercies we have received at His hands, at all times, and the benefits we receive from day to day. I shall ask for knowledge and understanding. I shall ask to be so guided and led into the paths of truth, that I shall have something—an incentive to work for, and that incentive or desire will be to construct a happy home for Hannah as my wife, and that we may enjoy many years together."

Bennie told Mother Sharp that he wanted to repeat his Mother's favorite hymn which he found was a great help to him.

"Thru Him, who all our sickness felt,
Who all our sorrows bare,
Thru Him in Whom thy fulness dwelt
We lift to Thee in prayer.

Help us to help each other,
Each others burden bear;
Let each his friendly aid afford,
To soothe anothers care.

Help us to build each other up,
Help us ourselves to prove;
Increase our faith, confirm our hope,
And perfect us in love.

Complete at length Thy work of grace,
And take us to Thy rest,
Amongst the Saints who see Thy face,
To be forever blest."

"Bennie, what a beautiful thought your dear mother conveys to me, as if I feel her presence about me, for she must be a devout Christian woman, and a mother whom you ought to be proud of."

"Yes, Mrs. Sharp, I am indeed proud of her, and my love for her is fathomless and boundless as the ocean; and often when I am alone and in a meditative mood, I feel her dear presence as she guides me by her loving thoughts and I hear Her Guiding Voice, as she conveys to me a silent warning when I go astray and pleading within me when I pray."

Hannah now called Bennie to come to dinner, and as he rose, he bent over and planted a loving kiss on Mother Sharp's cheek, saying he would be back soon, and told her while she was having her after dinner nap, that he would take Hannah out for a little walk, but that they would not go far and would be back by the time she would be awake.

When he entered the dining room Mr. Sharp and Hannah were waiting for him and they were soon partaking of a splendid dinner. Upstairs, Mother Sharp was thinking about Bennie, how considerate he was, and what a loving mother his must be! Then she tried to think of him as her son-in-law, Hannah's husband, and how happy they would be.

So Hannah tells him that her mother would like to have him ever by her side for she is attracted to you Bennie. "I shall have to tell her I am jealous," and she laughed. Mr. Sharp then said, "Yes, we like Bennie, and hope he will not betray our confidence and trust that we are entrusting with him."

Hannah had her mother's tray all ready and as

soon as she had served Bennie and her father she goes upstairs to her mother. Mrs. Sharp began telling her about her conversation with Bennie, and said, "Hannah, the more I see of Bennie, the better I like him and am indeed pleased. I love to hear him express his experiences and I am drawn very close to him."

"Now eat your dinner, mother dear, and Bennie will soon be back for a while with you." Hannah returned to the dining room to eat her dinner, for she did not have this pleasure very often, of eating with her lover. Bennie enjoyed this meal more than words can express, for was it not prepared by the one whom he loved dearly? How he enjoyed it! He did not forget to let Hannah know that he appreciated it for he praised it highly.

Dinner being over, Bennie found his way upstairs to talk with Mother Sharp as he had promised. She greeted him with a loving motherly smile, and when he took up her tray, she told him to never mind it, but Bennie was anxious to have a word with Hannah, so went down to the kitchen where he found her busy but glad to see him. He wanted to know how long it would be before they would start out for their walk and she said in about forty minutes as she wanted to wash the dishes and then get dressed. "Now, Bennie dear, if you will go up and talk to mother, it will be a great kindness to her for she is very much interested in you, as her future son-in-law." Bennie told her he realized this for when "I tried to criticize you she took your part, and I had to concede to her wishes."

Bennie went up stairs and sitting in a rocker by her bed-side, he spied a small Bible lying on a stand, reaching over he took it up as it reminded him of his own that his dear mother had given him. On opening it and turning to the back part he found and read some Paraphrases on John XIV—1 to 7.

THE GUIDING VOICE OF THE SILENCE

"Let not your hearts with anxious thoughts,
Be troubled or dismayed;
But trust in Providence divine,
And trust my precious aid.

I to my Father's house return,
There numerous mansions stand,
And glory manifold abounds,
Through all the Happy Land.

I go your entrance to secure,
And your abode prepare;
Regions unknown are safe to you,
When I, your friend, are there.

Thence shall I come, when ages close,
To take you home with me;
There we shall meet to part no more,
And still together be.

I am the Way, The Truth, The Life,
No son of human race.
But such as I conduct and Guide,
Shall see my Father's face."

As he finished reading, she said, "What an inspiring thought to have instilled upon the mind, that we are guided by an Unseen Force, which leads us in the paths of Truth." Yes, Bennie, it is a glorious thought and lifts one up to higher and nobler living, so that when we join our loved ones in the home of the blest, how happy we shall be!"

Hannah called Bennie and told him to tell her mother that they were now ready to go for a walk and that "we shall not stay long." So Bennie told Mother Sharp to try and get a little nap for an hour or so, as Hannah was ready now to take a little walk.

Mrs. Sharp told Bennie that that was all right, and Hannah should have a little of his time, too. "So do not rush, my boy, for I will try to rest a little in the meantime."

So Hannah and Bennie start out for the old mill

road, and had to pass through the old fashioned part of the town, and as they walked Hannah pointed out the old land marks, the routes taken by the English invaders, she also told him of many land marks of New Jersey, at Camden, Haddonsfield and others of interest.

By this time they were out of town quite a little distance and they were thinking of the same thing, how they were to have a little home of their own in the near future and how happy they would be together!

Bennie went on to tell her how he had talked of his opportunities to her mother, and that he was making good at his work, accomplishing things that other older journeymen had failed in. "We also spoke of constructing a love nest, a little home with you, Hannah, as my little wife. I want to have things such that you may never regret the step you are about to take with me."

Hannah answered, "Bennie dear, I know from what Aunt Sarah and Uncle Joe told me, that you are adapted to your work, and do it so easily it seems to come natural to you, so it must be a gift you possess, dear. But in speaking of happiness, dear, you know we must be congenial, in harmony with one another in word thought, and deed.

"I shall keep my promise, dear, to marry you within a year from the date you made your vow, but Bennie, if you break your vow, that means that I shall break mine with you."

The sun was getting lower, and as they were about three miles from home Bennie thought they had better retrace their steps. Although Hannah knew the road, she was willing to start back and they walked a little more rapidly, for they had been gone longer than they expected.

They soon found themselves at home but very much surprised at the time they had been gone, for there was so much to talk about that the time simply seemed to take wings. They had spent more

time than they were aware of along the old mill road.

Hannah remarked about the time but Bennie said, "No wonder, it is almost seven o'clock, dear, and your mother will wonder what became of us." Mr. Sharp met them and asked if they had had a pleasant walk? Bennie told him that he had enjoyed it very much, and spoke of the many places of interest surrounding Chester, which Hannah pointed out to him.

As Bennie intended to leave on the late train, Hannah busied herself in preparing a light supper so that left Bennie a chance to chat with her father. They talked about politics and current events and in a little while Bennie found his way upstairs to visit with Mother Sharp who was expecting him, for he had promised to return to her bed-side, for he loved this dear soul.

Mrs. Sharp smiled as he entered her room and asked him to be seated. He told her he was sorry he would have so little time to spend with her, as he was leaving Chester a little after nine o'clock, as he had to be at work Monday morning, for his was a special piece of work and his employers relied on him to be there and do the work, and as he told this dear soul, I must make good now, "For I have much to look forward to, and I can not fail."

Some unseen force seemed to draw Bennie close to this woman, he was led by a guiding hand, it seems he was impressed to do certain things at times, either willingly or unwillingly, he was acted upon. So it is with many of us.

As he sat down he began to repeat a verse or two which his mother taught him and he said, "I want you to hear this, Mother Sharp."

"You now must hear my voice no more;
My Father calls me home;
But soon from Heaven, The Infinite Spirit.
Your comforter shall come.
That heavenly teacher, sent from God,

Shall your whole Soul inspire:
Your mind shall fill with sacred Truth
Your heart with sacred fire.

Peace is the gift I leave with you,
My peace to you bequeath;
Peace that shall comfort you through life,
And cheer your Soul in death.
I give not as the world bestows,
With promise false and vain;
Nor cares, nor fears, shall wound the heart,
In which my words remain."

This was the first time that Bennie had ever called her Mother Sharp, and it would be the only time. Why? It was the hand of fate, Mother Sharp would never hear his voice again, she would never see Bennie's face again and he would never read to her again.

Why? WE SHALL SEE.

He had spent more time than he should have, for Hannah now called that he must hurry if he must go on that train, as he should be started now. As it was so near train time, they scarcely ate anything, and he called his farewell to that loving soul upstairs, and he and Hannah were on their way to the station.

They hurried and by so doing just arrived a few minutes before the train pulled into the station. Hearing the thrill of the whistle as the train neared the station, cast a sort of gloom over Hannah, for she realized that soon Bennie would be on board and be carried away from her, and she was loathe to see him go. Although she was not aware of it at this time, Hannah would not see his smiling face for many a week, perhaps never: Mrs. Sharp whom he called mother for the first time on the eve of his departure, would never hear Bennie read passages of scripture to her again.

Why? WE SHALL SEE.

As the train pulled in, Bennie, with his traveling bag in hand, took Hannah's hand in his and gave

her a loving kiss of farewell as now the time was at hand for him to go. He got near a window and as the train sped away, he waved a fond farewell, and it was farewell, for his face would not smile on hers again for some time. Why? We shall see.

Bennie had now time to think, we are aware that some people can not think for themselves, so hire other people to do their thinking for them, but such was not the case with Bennie, he was a good thinker, and could reason things out along an intellectual line, but a poor actor.

He thought of his Love left behind at Chester, he thought of her dear mother, that loving inspired soul whom he had learned to love. He thought of his own dear mother away in Virginia, of Peggy and her husband Arthur and their lovely children, and of the family scattered away from home. He thought of Harry and his wife, who would soon be on their way to Colorado. No wonder his mother should say, as she so often did, "One by one they leave, soon they will all be gone into homes of their own."

As Mother Gregory thought of these things, she always thought of her boys and girls as romping children, ever anxious to have her smooth out their troubles and tie up sore fingers. She pictured them as babes clinging to her skirt, and then as children ready to hear mother tell them stories and read to them.

She thought of their hardships, how her darling boys were obliged to leave school and go to work, how willingly they carried their pay envelopes to her and emptied their contents into her lap, and how their little faces would light up when she gave them a little change for their very own. No wonder she feels as though those days are passed and gone to return no more.

Thus Bennie mused as the train sped toward Philadelphia to return no more.

CHAPTER XVI

BENNIE IS BACK TO HIS OLD HABITS.

THE VOW IS BROKEN.

Late that Sunday night we find Bennie aboard the street car as he landed in Philadelphia and on his way to Aunt Sarah's home. Here he found them all in bed, as it was quite late and so Bennie enters as noiselessly as possible, not caring to arouse any of them.

He was soon in bed, and at peace with the world for he had a pleasant visit with Hannah and her parents, so he was lifted up, and encouraged to go on he had an incentive to work, for his daily thought now was to make Hannah happy in their married life.

The next morning Aunt Sarah called the men for breakfast, Bennie included, for she knew he was home as she heard him coming in the night before. As he took his place at the table he was all smiles and his aunt answered him with one of her smiles, but before she could ask a question, Uncle Joe asked, "Well, Bennie, how's the little girl?" "All right," said Bennie, "I have had a very pleasant and agreeable visit with Hannah, and I assure you both her father and mother extended to me all the kindness that any one could possibly give to a son."

Hannah's mother reminds me of my own dear mother so much in her ways and advice. I was attracted very strongly to her and although I had seen her before now that I was with her more, she appeals more and more to me.

Aunt Sarah said, "From what I learned from Hannah, while here, her mother must be a good devout Christian woman." Bennie assured her

that she was indeed, "And if you were to meet her you could not help becoming attached to her, for her friendly nature and sunny disposition draws people to her, like a magnet. Well I must be off or I shall miss my car and be late for work," so he bids his aunt a pleasant good-morning and away he started saying he would tell all about his trip that evening.

Bennie had a very difficult piece of work on hand, so he was obliged to keep his mind on it very closely, for only with concentrated efforts could he accomplish it. Many a man would have given up this difficult proposition, but not so with Bennie, he thought of Uncle Joe, what a reflection it would be on him, if he did not make good on this job which more skilled workmen had fallendown on.

Bennie had staying qualities and his uncle knew it, for he often marveled at his genius, for he, himself, was at a loss to fathom it out, but to Bennie it seemed to be natural and therefore comparatively easy for he had a gift of seeing clearly just what to do at the right time, he was talented and had great Intuition, being led by an unseen force, and to those close to him, he appeared as though he were conversing with some one for his thoughts reached out to his dear mother and to Hannah.

Bennie realized the presence of his dear mother although he knew she was miles distant, yet he was conscious of her presence, as if her spirit were close to him, impressing and leading him on and he used to say, "And so distant seems that Sphere, Still, I feel thee ever near." Her Guiding Voice.

Bennie remembered the promise he gave to his dear mother, that he would travel and keep in harmony with his fellow workmen, and keep away from evil associates. He realized that she was trying to lead him in the right path to duty, and to God, "And may God bless her dear loving soul." Such was his thoughts as he labored and toiled with energy and vim.

Hour after hour his thoughts would lead him to what Hannah had said to him as he was about to leave Chester. "Remember your vow, to me, Bennie, dear, for if you break your vow, then I shall break mine with you." He did not like the attitude of Hannah in reminding him of it, for it seemed to him more of a threat, than a sacred vow.

That night there were two letters for Bennie, he saw by the postmarks that one was from Amelia, in New Jersey, and the second was from his dear mother. On reading his sister's letter, he found an invitation to attend a little party she was giving. Aunt Sarah was anxiously waiting to hear the news, so Bennie told her that Amelia was having a little gathering and desired him to be present. He then told her he would not go for he had something more important than that on his mind, "More serious, auntie but I will tell you later."

He turned to his mother's letter and found it full of news about his Father and Arthur, all about the work they were doing and how nicely they were getting along. They all like the new surroundings and would like him to be there too, so she reminded him of his promise to bring Hannah to Staunton on a visit, for she was longing to know Bennie's future wife and that she was waiting patiently to hear of their marriage.

Bennie stopped and looked at Aunt Sarah, and as he paused he thought to himself, "Shall I tell her?" He made up his mind in the impulse of the moment and said, "Auntie, dear, my mother wishes I was near her, and so do I, she also says she is longing to see Hannah, and how soon would she hear of our marriage?" Now this brings me to a point which does not appeal to my nature, and that is—"When, on parting with Hannah at the station when I left Chester for Philadelphia, her last words to me were, "Remember your vow to me Bennie, dear, for if you break your vow, then I shall break mine with you."

"Auntie, I do not like that, it sounds to me like a threat, and seems like an obstacle in the pathway of my progress, as it looms up before my vision. If that is Love, then I do not realize what love is or means, for I do love Hannah with all my heart and soul, but I can not rest with this on my mind, for it has been on my mind all day at work, for I am unable to drive the thought away from me."

His aunt interrupted him from saying anything further, as she said, "You must not look at or think of it as you do, Bennie, for it seems to me that you do not construe the meaning in the right way, for I do not think, nor would I have you think that she is threatening you with this vow you made to her. She is too pure and noble-hearted to do such a thing."

"But let me tell you, Bennie, you need some one to put a little more Will Power in you, for you must develop a better nature within you, so you may be worthy of a wife like Hannah Sharp would be to you." Bennie was amazed to hear his aunt express herself in this way but he knew every word she uttered was true and to the point.

"Auntie, dear, you seem to look at this matter from a different angle, you seem to reason it out, that she means it for my betterment." She assured Bennie that Hannah was looking after both their welfares and was anxious for him to grow stronger in determination and acquire more force to use his Will in such a way as to lead to better and brighter things in the future, and make a happy union possible.

The conversation relating to the vow ceased as some one entered the front door. It was Harry. "Hello, auntie, how are you, and how are all the folks?"

Bennie came into the room. "Hello, Bennie," cried Harry, I just dropped in to tell you that we are off to-morrow for the West." Elizabeth will be here in a few minutes as we wish to bid you

all good-bye, for we shall probably locate in Colorado and will leave on the early train in the morning.

"Wish I was going, too, or some place else," said Bennie. "Why, what is the matter, Bennie, said Harry? Bennie told him he did not know himself, but just supposed he was restless, but that he was surely going away, and soon, too."

"Have you and Hannah had words," asked Harry? "No indeed, Harry, but I suppose I was born a wanderer, and shall be, to the end I suppose." "Does Hannah know that you are talking like this?" So Bennie told him she did not, and he was not going to tell her.

Elizabeth came in and they all spent an hour or so together, but Millie had gone out for the evening so they waited for her so as to say good-bye. After they had gone, Bennie went out, and this set his aunt to wondering what it meant, and she was indeed worried and wished her husband had persuaded him to remain at home.

No one knew where he went or why. But Bennie had determined to meet his associates, and he did to his own sorrow. This was his downfall which led him into degradation. In the early hours of morning, Bennie came home, Intoxicated, and found his way to his room.

Aunt Sarah had not been able to sleep, for she knew he would join his old companions and she realized that there was something radically wrong, somewhere so she had him on her mind and was glad he went to his room, she did not let him know she heard him, she had been thinking of what he said about Hannah's parting remark, and she understood that he was not satisfied with her sentiment, and it was preying on his mind.

Bennie went to bed and in a little while Aunt Sarah was up getting breakfast ready and soon she called the men to come to breakfast, Bennie included. No response from Bennie, and she called sev-

eral times. Finally, his uncle went up to his room and said, "Bennie, what is the matter? Are you not going to work?" "No, and I may not go to work at all any more," answered Bennie.

Uncle Joe was dumfounded, speechless, was Bennie going back on him, surely not? He tried to coax Bennie to go to work, but Bennie said, "Uncle Joe, I am too sick to go to work, even if I wanted to, so go on to work, uncle, and I will explain matters to-night."

Uncle Joe went downstairs and told Aunt Sarah to leave him alone, for he would come down when he saw fit.

About nine-thirty, Bennie dressed and came into the dining room, where his aunt was waiting for him. She looked at him so sadly, as she said, "Bennie dear, I am so disappointed in you, yet I sympathize with you, for I know what is the matter with you, but you should refrain from what you are doing, and develop a firmer resolution to say, *I will*, it must be done, use more energy and force of action and I assure you that you will win."

But these words were like throwing chaff before the wind, they took no effect on Bennie, for he had made up his mind what he was going to do, and he would do it.

"Yes, auntie dear," said Bennie, "I am disappointed in myself, and I am ashamed of myself for the way I do, but I love my Father and Mother and sisters and brothers, as well as you and Uncle Joe and all my cousins. I love Hannah Sharp with all my heart, but when she repeated my vow to me as I parted with her, it seems as if I received a blow that has stunned me, and from which I do not seem to recover."

She asked him to try and eat a little and perhaps he would feel better. So he ate a bite of toast and drank some coffee. He then said he would go up to his room and write a long loving letter to his mother, "for, auntie, dear, I never answered her

last letter. What will she think of me? I have no excuse, simply neglected to write and so now I must answer this loving message at once.

Going to his room, he closed the door, for he wanted to feel his mothers influence close to him, for she was longing to see him as was lonely for her, yet he dared not go to her, and the tears rolled down his cheeks, as he thought of how he had committed himself, broken his vow with the One he loved dearly, and how his mother would be sure to ask, "Where is Hannah, I thought you promised me to bring her to see me, Bennie?"

"What should I say? I would have to tell her the truth. That I had broken my vow with Hannah—That Hannah, my love, was lost to me forever. There is only one thing for me to do, that is to go away where no one knows me and there try to forget my love for her."

Those were the thoughts that impressed our wanderer, as he sat behind closed doors. "Why do I not heed My Dear Mother's Guiding Voice?" As I feel her draw close to me and if I would but heed, she would influence me, day by day, for she instructs me what to do, but still I do not heed her."

Oh! if I could hear her sweet voice as in my younger days! I have many loving remembrances of her presence, and these I shall always think about, and no matter where I am, her memory will cling to me—My Loving Mother."

"Oh happy is the man who hears
Instructions warning voice,
And who celestial Wisdom makes
His early, only choice.
For she has treasures greater for
Than East or West unfold;
And her rewards more precious are
Than all their stores of gold.

In her right hand she holds to view
A length of happy days;
Riches, with splendid honors joined,
Are what her left displays.

She guides the young with innocence
In pleasures path to tread,
A crown of glory she bestows
Upon a hoary head.

According as her labors rise,
So her rewards increase;
Her ways are ways of pleasantness
And all her paths are peace."
Her Guiding Voice

Bennie thought to himself, "I have two letters to write, so I may as well do it now, while I am in a fit condition." So taking his Tablet, he sat down and wrote—

"Dear Mother,

I received your loving letters, one a long time ago, and now this one, I know I should be more prompt, mother dear, and have no excuse to offer. I am glad to hear that Father and Arthur are getting along so nicely and that you are all well. Glad, too, that you like the place and your surroundings. I know you are happy to be near Peggy and her children.

You still have Marie, the pride of our family, and how we love her. Clyde is working and must be a big chap by this time, although he is our baby, and always will be my baby brother, as Marie is my little sister, mother dear, for I shall ever think of her loving self as such, to me she will not grow up.

Millie is well and growing so tall, she will be the tallest of our family and is quite pretty, too, and getting along nicely in the store. She has made a host of friends, here. Harry and his wife left last week for Colorado, so we just have Millie with us now.

Just had a letter from Amelia, she is still with her husbands people, in New Jersey. She says Helen is almost large enough to go to school, but of course she is too young. Uncle Joe is still the

same good old soul and enquires about Father. Aunt Sarah, like your loving self, mother, is ever advising me, but there is a contending force that seems to strike me, that I can not repel, and causes me to give way, but I suppose it is my nature, for I am getting restless, and suppose I have a restless spirit within me.

So now I am going to close my letter to you and say, by the time you are reading it I shall be away from Philadelphia—where I shall be, I do not know, but I shall write to you often, mother mine so do not worry. You will wonder, no doubt, why I am leaving here, and leaving a loving remembrance behind. And what has come between Hannah and me, but this I can not tell you, mother, dear, but Aunt Sarah knows why, and ere long she will tell you why.

I know your mind will be on me, wondering where your wandering boy is, but mother, dear do not worry, for I will take good care of myself so give my love to Father, Arthur, Peggy and my baby sister (Marie) and my baby brother, Clyde, also my little niece and nephews. I will write soon, but I feel you are happy to have your grandchildren near you, so I again assure you that I shall think of you and write soon as I settle down. Good-bye, mother dear—

Your loving son—Bennie.”

His mother's letter written, now he must write to that dear loving soul at Chester—Hannah, he must not delay, for some one may intrude on his time, later. As he picked up his pen he thought to himself, “This is my hardest task, to tell her My Love, that I am leaving for parts unknown, so without furthur hesitation he started his letter to her.

“Dear Hannah—

I am writing a few lines to you, dear to inform you that I arrived safely and on time and found everyone well. I hope your dear mother

is improving in health and give her my best love.

Hannah, dear, your parting words when I was leaving Chester, are still imbedded on my mind, and I can not erase them, and with that thought,—that I might break my vow to you later on, in our married life and that you would break with me, causing us to part.

Therefore, dear, when thinking over it seriously and conscientiously, I have decided not to engulf you, dear, into an unhappy life. I went out last night for a little stroll, intending to return early and go to bed, but met two of my associates, and being in such a frame of mind, I gave way and took the bitter cup of woe—drank, to my sorrow, dear, for I could not have you marry me and live an unhappy life. No, no.

Dear Hannah, my love for you would restrain me from doing so, and I shall always think of you, and love you, until my spirit soars away and takes its flight to realms above, and if you are still on earth, my spirit will still send out its loving thoughts to you, to lead and guide you, my love.

Give my love to your father and also to that dear mother of yours whom I love with devotion. Tell her I send her my loving farewell and hope she has a speedy recovery. And now, Hannah dear, as I have broken my vow to you, so you break yours with me.

So I leave to-day,—My Love—My Love, for where, I do not know, I leave you that some day you will make another man happy, one with whom you will be in harmony and co-operate one with the other, and thus be happy together, as we should have been in each other love.

Do not write, dear, as Aunt Sarah will not know my where abouts, but I shall always think of you as my lost love—my Hannah. So I send to you my loving farewell, but will always think of you, where ere I wander and roam, you will be My Only Love, dear.”—Lovingly—Bennie.

Bennie addressed his envelopes and sealed them then, feeling more secure with them safe in his coat pocket, he came down stairs. He intended to see all his folks that night and then leave early the next morning and would mail his letters on the way to the station.

Aunt Sarah looked at him and smiled as she asked him where he was going. And he told her he would take a little walk, go down town, and for her not to wait lunch for him, as he would get a bite down town, promising to be home early for he wanted to see his uncle before he went out for the evening.

“Well, my boy, whatever you do, keep straight, for Hannah’s sake, and for the sake of your dear mother.” Bennie told her not to fear, that he was discouraged now, but would tell her all his plans to Uncle Joe and Aunt Sarah, that night, thus informing them that he was leaving the next morning.

Millie was the first one in from work that night, and Aunt Sarah took her into her confidence and told her all—that she thought Bennie was going back to his old ways, that he was drinking again and that he did not go to work to-day and talked of leaving soon.

She told of Hannah’s parting remark and that he looked upon it as a threat and not as helpful advice. “Well, auntie, dear, we know Bennie’s nature better than those on the outside of the family circle, and we know he needs advice, he needs a wife to hold him in check, and if they really loved each other, as he says they do, why, there should be some way to make him understand her, understand each other, do you not think so, auntie?”

“Yes, Millie dear, said her aunt, “You have thrown a better and stronger light upon the subject, and perhaps we can make Bennie reason with us, and go and see Hannah, and have an understanding.”

Her aunt requested her to remain at home that evening and together they would try and persuade her brother to reason this thing out from a different standpoint and Millie gladly promised to do all in her power to aid. They had not long to wait, for Bennie came in soon afterward.

Bennie had gone to where his uncle worked, to where he should have been working that day. He went to the office and told the clerk he wanted to draw his money in full, the clerk looked surprised as he asked, "You are not going to leave us, Bennie, to work elsewhere, are you?"

"Yes, I am going to quit, so hand over my money." Being in no mood to be argued with, the clerk made up Bennie's statement and gave him his money. He knew that he would be reprimanded by the Superintendent for paying Bennie off, as they needed him, and needed him badly, for there were few men of his type and ability, who could be placed on special jobs. Bennie was one out of these few who showed skill in his work.

Thanking the clerk, he went out to where his uncle was working, supervising the erection of a large library building, and was not noticed until he touched his uncle on the shoulder. Turning around he was surprised to see Bennie, so he smiled as he said, "Hello, Bennie, where are you wandering?"

"Oh not far today, I've just been to the office and have drawn my money in full," replied Bennie. "What? You don't mean to say you are leaving me, I would rather have any man on this job leave, than you, for I need you, my boy, and you know it."

"Well, I will tell you why I am leaving, and the reason, but I will wait around till the whistle blows, and we are on the way home, before I tell you." "But it is not my work, or you, Uncle Joe, I am well satisfied with work conditions, but something else. Don't worry about it."

He told his uncle that he would be back when the whistle blew, so he left and entered a saloon

about two blocks away and took a drink of whiskey, then started toward the works as it was near quitting time.

When he got as far as the office gate, he saw his uncle coming toward him, so he waited for him. "Well, Bennie, let us go straight home, as I feel there is something wrong with you." "I can explain to you as we walk home and that will save time, as I know Aunt Sarah is waiting to advise and lecture me when I get home"

So saying, he told him that some time ago while Hannah was in Philadelphia selecting a wedding gift for Harry and Elizabeth, "I bought a diamond ring for Hannah, but before she accepted it she had me make a vow, to refrain from drinking any intoxicants, whatever, saying if I drank, then she would break her vow with me, as she promised to marry me within a year from that date."

"That part was all right, I gave my promise. Two weeks ago I paid a visit at Hannah's home, and on leaving Chester, as we parted at the station with a loving kiss. Just as I stepped on the train she said, "Remember your vow to me Bennie, for if you break your vow, then I shall break mine."

"This is what has disturbed my peace of mind, that parting remark, for it seemed to me more like a threat, so I have made up my mind, not to ask for any explanation, but leave for parts unknown, and forget that I love Hannah, and wander, as is my nature, leaving behind me, loving remembrances of my mother and Aunt Sarah and of you, Uncle Joe, you have been so kind and generous at all times to me, and to forget that I ever loved, and still love Hannah.

Uncle Joe stopped him right here, as he said, "Bennie, you must talk with reason, you have taken for granted that Hannah used your vow, which is sacred to both of you, as a threat to warn you not to break it." "On the other hand, I truly believe that

Hannah said this to you in good faith, for the welfare of you both, in your future life together."

This was the end of their conversation as they had reached home, and as they entered the house they were greeted by Aunt Sarah's smile as she bade them good-evening. Uncle Joe pulled off his shoes as was his custom and then proceeded to the bathroom to wash and dress.

Millie was setting the table and her aunt was ready to serve supper as soon as Uncle Joe was ready, so the family took their places at the table. Uncle Joe talked about the progress of the work and told Bennie that he had not been able to find a man to take his place on this special work, "So if you leave now, Bennie, I shall have to get a designer," and then perhaps I can get a man to cut the stone.

Aunt Sarah said, "What is that I hear about you, Bennie, do you mean to say you are going to leave us,—to leave Philadelphia—your work—your friends—and your loving mother, because you have misunderstood Hannah's meaning."

"No, my boy, I plead with you not to do that, be reconciled in the fact that it was an error, a mistake, a mis-understanding, but go and have a talk with Hannah, have an understanding, for she loves you as you know and you love her, so why part on account of a slight error."

But Bennie was firm, saying there was no misunderstanding and apology to be made on either side, and told them he had made up his mind and he was going to do it, so there was no use to persuade him to stay. He got no peace at supper, for all tried to coax him to re-consider, but he was firm and determined.

Bennie retired early as he was tired having been up late the night before. Rising early the next morning, as he wanted to see his uncle before starting to work, to bid him good-bye thanking him for all his kindness. He said good-bye to his cousins and to dear Millie, who was worried about him,

for she was thinking of their dear mother who would be heart-broken to know that her boy, was wandering around among strangers in strange places.

Taking out his suit-case, he kissed Aunt Sarah and started off, waving a fond farewell to her as he went out the gate. He was gone—going, he knew not where, but he was on his way. He dropped his two letters in the mail box and then was lost to view—gone—no one knew.

“In life’s gay morn, when sprightly youth
With vital ardour grows,
And shines in all its fairest charms,
Which beauty can disclose;
Deep on thy Soul, before its powers,
Are yet by vice enslaved,
Be Thy Creator’s glowing name
And character engraved.

For soon the shades of grief shall cloud
The sunshine of thy days;
And cares and toils, in endless round
Encompass all thy ways.
Soon shall thy heart, the woes of age,
In mournful groans deplore,
And sadly muse on former joys
That now return no more.”

The morning following Bennie’s departure, Hannah received her letter, she knew his writing and was elated, for she called to her mother, saying she had a letter from Bennie, and she would read it and then bring it up to her.

Poor Hannah, little did she realize what was in store for her, and she opened it and began to read, what was wrong with Bennie? He arrived safe and all the folks were well, he hopes my mother is progressing nicely, but what does he mean—my parting words were to him still imbedded on his mind, and he can not erase them, and with that thought—that I might break my vow later on af-

ter our marriage, and then I would break with him causing us to part.

She read on—Therefore I have thought over the matter and decided not to engulf, you dear, into an unhappy life. And as I went out for a stroll last night, I met two of my associates, and being in such a frame of mind, I took the bitter cup of woe,—a drink to my sorrow, and so I have broken my vow, and I've thought over it many times, that I can not have you marry me and live an unhappy life.

No, no, dear, my love for you would restrain me from doing so, and I shall always think of you and love you until my spirit soars away and takes its flight to realms above, and if you are still on earth, my spirit will send out loving thoughts to you to lead and guide you, my love.

Hannah dropped the letter, her eyes were dim and things were blurred to her vision, but she thought of her mother and picked up her letter and went upstairs to her mother's room and as she saw her mother she said, "Mother dear, Bennie is gone, gone from Philadelphia, no one knows where, and it is all my fault," and she threw herself on the bed sobbing as though her heart would break, "yes, mother, it is all my fault, and Oh! how I love him, Oh Bennie, dear, why did you do it, why did you go away, why did you not come to me and let me explain to you, my love?"

She cried and sobbed, "Oh mother, what shall I do now without Bennie?" Her mother tried to console her, but she might have tried to turn a tidal wave, it would have been just as easy.

Hannah was heart-broken and her mother was at a loss to know why Bennie would leave so suddenly without saying good-bye. She tried to find out from Hannah why he had gone, but she did not say.

For Hannah was crying and saying, "Why did I let Bennie leave me? It was all my fault," but

she did not tell her mother what was her fault. As it was almost time for her father to come in for his lunch, Mrs. Sharp roused Hannah a little and she quieted down a trifle, but as soon as she saw her father, she burst out crying and sobbing and going up to him she put her arms around his neck and laid her hand on his shoulders, as she told him that Bennie had gone away and that it was all her fault.

Her father talked to her and asked her to be calm and tell him the news, and we shall find out just what can be done. So Hannah told him just what Bennie had written and her father asked, "Why is it all your fault, dear?"

"I will tell you, Father dear," for it was no secret, when Bennie made the vow, she told her mother all about it, and she approved of it, and thought well of Bennie for doing it. Hannah went on and told her father that when Bennie gave her the diamond ring, that he made a vow or promise that he would refrain from drinking any intoxicants, and I promised that if he kept his faith that I would marry him within a year. But if he broke his vow, I would break my vow with him."

Now, father dear, as we parted at the station at Chester, that Sunday night, after kissing him good-bye, I said, "Remember your vow, Bennie." So he thinks it sounded more like a threat, than love.

Hannah could endure no more, for she began to cry bitterly and her father could not console her, she kept saying over and over again, "It is my fault, I should not have said that to him, and now he is gone,—gone forever."

CHAPTER XVII

BENNIE OUR WANDERER.—DEATH OF JOHN GREGORY

Bennie had left Philadelphia, and no one knew where—he did not know himself, but he was started on his wandering. He was gone, but soon he will return to his mother, on a sad mission.

We shall see.

The day after Bennie's departure, his dear mother received his letter, telling her he was leaving Philadelphia, but did not say where he was.

As she read on, she pondered and wondered what had happened to him; something out of the ordinary, of that she was sure, for she knew that he truly loved Hannah, and she thought to herself, now he has left his love behind.

She called Teresa and told her part of the news, then she said, "Read it to me dear, will you?" Teresa did so, and as she finished she found that Aunt Sarah would write soon and explain all. "What does he mean, dear." That Aunt Sarah would explain why. They were puzzled.

When John Gregory and Arthur came home from work that night, Mother Gregory gave her husband the letter to read. Well, said he, "Bennie has taken a wandering spell, it will do him good to get away from his own people, then when he returns he will appreciate your kindness to him. For who is going to bestow kindness and friendship upon him, like you have done all your life since he was born?" "Yes, he is our wayward son."

"Yes, Johnny," said Mother Gregory, he needed my protection and I gave it to him, and always advised him to lead a God-like life." Arthur spoke up and said, "I am sure of that and as long as I can

remember, you have done everything you could possibly do to make him see his error, but to no avail." He told her not to worry, for he would learn a lesson that he needs badly.

"Yes, I know, Arthur dear," said she, "I do not worry over any of my other children, but you know he needs me,—My Guidance—My care, and I would gladly lay down my life that he might live a better life." She went on telling that her race was about run and that her span of life before her was short and soon would come to an end, Teresa stopped her mother.

"Mother dear, we do not want you to speak like this, for you are to be with us many years, and we hope to fill them every one full of happiness, for we love you so much, mother dear."

"Yes, Teresa, I realize that, and I was so happy thinking that Bennie would marry Hannah and settle down happily for the rest of his days." But she said "His letter makes me see things in a different light, I see him wandering about, aimlessly over the face of the earth, no one knows where.

A few days later, while doing some shopping for Teresa, she heard some singing and as she drew closer, she found a band of The Salvation Army holding a street service and as she listened, she was shocked for the moment, for they were singing a hymn that appealed to her Inner self. She heard—

"Where is my wandering boy to-night,
The boy of my tenderest care
The boy that was once my joy and light
The child of my love and prayer.

Oh where is my boy to-night,
Oh where is my boy to-night,
My heart o'erflows, for I love him he knows,
Oh where is my boy to-night?

Once he was pure as the morning dew,
As he knelt at his mother's knee.
No face more bright, nor heart more true;
And none was so sweet as he."

Mother Gregory was deeply affected and waited to hear no more, for her heart was indeed o'erflowing as she thought of her Bennie. She started for home, thinking of her wandering boy, for he knows I love him and gave him my tenderest care at all times. How I shall miss him, no wonder I am sad.

On entering the house she laid her parcels on the table and told her daughter that she was going to her room and rest for half an hour as she was all upset. "Are you feeling ill, mother dear," said Teresa.

Mother Gregory assured her that she was not ill just a little disturbed about Bennie, so asked her not to worry. That dear old Soul wanted to be alone, in silent meditation—to be with God in her hour of trials—to be at peace.

To those, to whom peace is sweet comes a broad developed undersanding. And it is only through perfect understanding that we are led by a Guiding Hand—by An Inner Voice—The Voice in the Silence—to rise above our petty selves—to walk through the paths and gateways of our trials that loom up before us, like unto the Rock of Gibraltar, and thus brush them aside as chaff before the wind.

So this dear Soul seeks guidance from an All-wise Father and Creator of the Universe. The Father of all Wisdom in her hour of prayer, and prays that her boy be led aright, and be so guided along the heavenly way, that he will be impressed and influenced to listen to Her Guiding Voice, when it will bring peace to her Soul.

Knowing and having full faith that her prayer will be answered, she finds peace and consolation in the thought that her boy would soon respond and write home.

WE SHALL SEE.

Aunt Sarah knew that her sister would be worried about Bennie, so she lost no time in writing, telling all she knew, that he had gone, no one knew where, that he did not know himself, at the time.

She assured her that he would soon return and be under their roof and guidance once more. She told how Joe and herself, as well as Millie, tried to persuade him to stay, not to roam about from place to place but he would not listen to us.

"From what I hear neither he nor Hannah had a quarrel, but there has been a mis-understanding on Bennie's part, and he let it prey on his mind till he decided to go away to forget all about his love, never once did he think it worth while to let Hannah explain.

Like you, I was hoping that they would marry soon, and settle down to be happy in each others love, for I believe Hannah truly loves Bennie. I have not heard from Hannah yet, but expect to get a letter, enquiring about her lover, whether we have had any word from him, as I know she is heart-broken, for they were attached to each other and I never thought anything could part them.

I was glad to hear that John and Arthur were getting along so nicely, and I suppose Clyde is attending High School now, is he not? And dear little Marie, I'd love to see her, don't you know, sister, we miss her so much, for during your short stay here, we were all attracted to her, for she has such loving ways. Tell her that Cousin Joe sends his love to her. And how is Teresa, or as I call her, Peggy? Hope she is keeping well as well as her darlings whom I know you love and adore.

Now, sister dear, I will close my letter to you, as I must be getting supper ready for the men will soon be home. I want to tell you that Millie is doing fine and has made many acquaintances and real friends here, she is growing very tall, she is the tallest one of the family, and everybody loves her. With best love from Joe and myself—I am as ever"

Your loving sister—Sarah.

Harry and his wife had been gone over three weeks and no word as to their safe arrival yet.

Now Bennie has been gone a week, and no word from him. How they missed him in Philadelphia, Uncle Joe especially, for he was at a total loss at times for he was hard to replace, being specially gifted along his line of work and uncle had relied on him to accomplish this special piece of work.

He appreciated Bennie's skill and realized that an unseen force seemed to lead and guide him and direct his every move as he mastered the difficult work. We may call it Intuition, or what ever we please, but there was no getting away from the fact that he could go right on, without any seeming hardship on his part, but it was quite natural for him to do so, so he made no special effort to accomplish what was on hand to do.

So we can readily see why Uncle Joe missed Bennie, for we find him, very often, these days with Mallet and chisel in hand, trying to show his men how to do the work that Bennie did quite naturally. He told Sarah that Bennie could cut and engrave a difficult figure on a piece of stone without making much of an effort, but now it is left to me, Indeed I wish the lad would return, for he was like our own son, rather than a nephew."

About a week after Mother Gregory had received Bennie's letter, telling of his departure, Arthur asked her as he came in from work, whether she had heard from Bennie, yet? "No, Arthur, not yet, but surely he will write soon."

"Yes, I think we can expect a letter any day, now, oh no, he wont forget his dear mother, who has always been so considerate and kind to him. I am sure of that." "Well I am going to take Peggy and the children out for a ride after supper, and I want you and the old man to come along. It will not be dark for nearly two hours and we can go quite a distance in that time."

They were soon ready and when Arthur drove up to the front gate, they all piled in, and soon they were speeding out in the country where everything

looked fresh and clean. He had a load, but they did not mind being a little crowded, as the children would not think of going for a ride without Uncle Clyde and Aunt Marie. So they had their desire and a merry crowd they were, and happy, too.

They motored toward Clifton Forge in the Virginia Valley and found the country beautiful. Mother Gregory marvelled at the wonders and beauty of nature. As she said nature is preparing to rest—the leaves are turning all colors and shades, throwing off nature's mantle. Oh God, how grand are the works of Thy hands, everything in order—everything in unity—peace and concord. Co-operating and in harmony.

“Yes,” said Arthur, “nature takes a prominent part in everything that grows and in all our lives. That is from a Natural Cause. We are acted upon and impressed to do certain things, as individuals and as a race. We do not realize from whence it cometh or whether it goeth, but we do know it is an Unseen Force, whether it is an etheric condition, magnetism—or Cause and Effect. It is one or the other, I can not be the judge.” But let Him (God) who doeth all things well, enlighten us, and give us knowledge and wisdom that we may receive more Light upon this vast subject.

Mother Gregory was rather surprised and said, “Arthur dear, that was a grand way to express your soul, and the first time I have heard you utter an expression of this kind. “Well Mother, my thoughts lead me on to things that most people call mysterious, but I term them the workings of Natural Law.

It was now getting quite dark and Arthur suggested that they had better head for home. John Gregory seconded the motion and no sooner said than done, Arthur turned around and they speeded for Staunton and home.

The ride was thoroughly enjoyed by all and the cool fresh air was invigorating, so naturally they were ready to enjoy a night's rest-

ful sleep. After partaking of a light lunch they retired. As usual, Mother Gregory waited for the others and then, when all was still, she could open her heart to God, thanking Him for all the blessings received at His hands, for the bountiful goodness that fell to her lot. She prayed to the All Wise Creator to heal the sick and afflicted, for her wandering boy, who was away from home, Lead him, Oh Father in the paths of Truth, And lead us Oh Father in the paths of Peace.

“Unhelped by Thee in errors maze we grope,
While passion stains, and folly dim our youth,
And age comes on, uncheered by faith and hope.

Lead us, oh Father, to Thy heavenly rest,
However rough and steep the path may be,
Through joy and sorrow, as Thou deemest best;
Until our lives are perfected in Thee.”

Having thus given thanks she got ready to sleep still thinking of her wandering son, and the song she heard on the street that day and pondered over it as she assured herself that it was true, indeed.

“Where is my wandering boy to-night,
The boy of my tenderest care.”

That was her thought and she wondered how soon she would hear from him. Three weeks had gone by, and no word yet.

Aunt Sarah and Uncle Joe missed Bennie very much for he was like their own child, in fact they had given him more care and attention than their own had received. His uncle missed him at work, for he needed him, being a skilled and efficient workman, and could be depended on, for whatever was on hand to do, they took great interest in doing it and doing it in the right way.

We sympathize with both father and son, for they had a weakness which seemed to control them

at times. These men did not have a will-power sufficiently strong to control themselves, so we admit a weakness, and they are to be pitied rather than censored. So we sympathize with them.

In the meantime Aunt Sarah received word from Harry saying that they were at Colorado Springs, were both well and liked their new location and that they would stay there for a while at least. He told of sending cards to Clyde and Marie and that he had written to his Mother and Father, and that they would likely get the letters about the same time.

Amelia also received a short letter and was promised a longer letter, telling all about the country. Elizabeth sent a message to Millie saying she would dearly love to have her here to see the beautiful scenery and that they would enjoy so many things together. We gaze with wonder at the many things in nature that are strange to us. So many different colors of rock, each strata with its own particular color caused by heat and pressure, earth disturbances and upheavals of lava.

We find hot springs and steam pouring out of the bowels of the earth, caused by heated zones—the work of nature. Harry tried to explain these things in his letter to Aunt Sarah.

Millie was doing well at her work and as she grew accustomed to it she liked it very much for it appealed to her. Millie was a fine looking young lady, very attractive and of a pleasing manner which drew trade, so consequently she was promoted from time to time, surpassing some of the clerks who were longer in service than she, for she drew a good salary and in addition she got commission on her sales.

Millie spent many of her week ends in Camden with Amelia's family who were pleased to have her at all times and then Millie loved little Helen who was very fond of Aunt Millie.

Bennie, our wanderer, away from all who loved

him, roaming around among strangers found himself on the outskirts of Topeka, Kansas, where he was employed as stone-cutter and setter, on a Post-Office which was being erected there. As he worked, his thoughts were of home, his dear Mother, Hannah, his last love whom he still loved, as he thought he said to himself, "Yes, I love her with all my heart and soul in sincerety and in Truth." Thus this verse was recalled.

"Love is a Guiding Star,
A beacon burning bright,
Triumphant o'er the sandy bar,
It sheds its brilliant light;
Illuminates life's tossing waves
You can not fail to see
Nor feel it for a harborcrave
A haven on life's sea.

Love made this world a pretty place
With harmony and peace,
God's legacy to every race
To live His love to please.
The world that lofty mountains wrought
The ocean depth and sea,
That word is LOVE and Love is God;
This love he gave to me.

Love is ever a Guiding Star,
Life's compass points its way,
And safely leads where 'er we are,
I can not go astray.
And when my body peacefully lies
Within the house of clay.
In spirit rises toward the skies
My Soul in ecstasy."

P. C. Michaels

Such were his thoughts as he worked on and on, and he determined to write to his dear mother for he knew she would worry about him as he promised he would let her know of his whereabouts, and he did not mean to cause her any suffering needlessly.

That night after supper, he went to his room to

be alone—to feel the influence of his loving mother, for she had drawn very close to him at times when he was heavy and weary and needed her loving guidance, so now he felt this need as he wanted to write and ease her mind with regard to his welfare.

So he closed his door and getting his writing material ready he sat down to write, while he asked for the inspiration of Her Guiding Voice, and he had faith that she would draw close to him now. Spying the little bible which she had given to him when he left home so long ago, “and I promised her then that I would read a passage every night and I have not done so but I hope to be forgiven.”

“Yes, this book is all that’s left me now!
Tears will unbidden start;
With faltering lips and throbbing brow,
I press it to my heart.
For my years past
In here is our family tree,
My Mother’s hands this bible clasped,
When I was leaving, gave it me.”

Topeka, Kansas, Nov. 10, 1903.

My Dearest Mother—

I know you are anxious to hear from me, and to know if I am pleasantly located, and I want you to know that I have been working for the last two weeks on a Post Office Building on the outskirts of the city, and expect to be here for some time, at least until late spring.

I like my work, and my foreman is very friendly as are also my fellow workmen. There seems to be an atmosphere of trust and confidence among these men. As this is in my line, I find myself doing the part that it seems not many men are capable of doing well, if at all. And Mother dear, I think of the many times you helped me, and now I feel myself willing to show a kindness to these men by helping them to understand the steps required in accomplishing the work. So I have made many

friends here among the workers and also with those who employ me.

I am keeping well and hope you are also and that you do not worry about me for I am taking great care of myself. I often feel your influence and feel your presence as though from the spirit realms, for I feel your inspiring thoughts leading me on to higher and nobler thoughts—to work on and you will win—you seem to impress me to shun evil companions and to lead a God-like life, which I shall endeavor at all times to do.

As I started to write I picked up your bible which you gave me long ago, dear mother, and as I looked at it, it seemed to bring me in close touch with your dear sweet self. I must confess, mother dear I am not always able to throw off evil conditions which often surround me, I try but fail, very often. I get so discouraged at times and then I am led astray for I do things that I know I should not do.

So mother dear, I ask your aid to send your loving thoughts to guide and lead me in the straight and narrow way that I may see the shining Light beyond the cloud which obscures my view. I pray to the Guiding Spirit, The Source of All Wisdom, to lead me on in the path of Truth and Justice.

I know you were surprised at my leaving Aunt Sarah's so suddenly, but as she has explained fully, I shall say nothing about it, as telling it only brings to my mind regret, of what might have been. I hope Father and Arthur are doing fine and I send my loving thoughts to Teresa and her children, whom you love and adore. I long to see you all, to see the sweet loving face of my Mother beam with pleasure when I open the door. Yes, I understand, Mother.

Now, Mother dear, give my love to little Marie and tell her to write me a long letter, telling me all that is happening and also give my love to my baby brother, ah, ah, he wont like me to call him

that, will he? Tell him to write, too. I am writing to Aunt Sarah too, so she will get my letter about the same time you get this one. Now I will close by sending my love to all.

Send my letters in care of Mrs. Louisa Thornton—No. 173 Park Row, Topeka, Kansas. Enclosed find money order for Forty Dollars (\$40.00) as I do not expect to be home for Christmas and I want you to get a gift for yourself, in remembrance of me.

Your Loving Son—Bennie.

His mother's letter written, he goes on and sends a loving message to that dear motherly soul—Aunt Sarah. He tells her about his work, the men he comes in touch with, telling her to say to Uncle Joe that he is working on a Post Office Building, but not so elaborate a one as we worked on in West Philadelphia.

He told how he missed them all, and how he appreciated all that they had done for him, and that he realized he had been treated as a son. He wanted his uncle to know that he realized how much he had helped him in his work, saying, that had it not have been for Uncle Joe, he could not have accomplished the difficult things he did.

He told his auntie that he could not write to Hannah, no not yet, but perhaps a little later, he will be able to write to his lost love—his Hannah. But just now he could not without telling her of his love. Some day when the parting of the ways is removed, and the silvery light is on the moon—when the dark clouds roll away and prospects are brighter, then I'll try to write for I know she is heart-broken on account of my leaving. But I go to bury my grief, to be away from my true but lost love—my Hannah.

In closing I send my love to all, and I shall always be a son to you, and am always thinking of the loved ones I left behind. I am as ever, Lovingly,

Bennie. Send letters in care of Mrs. Louisa Thornton—No. 173 Park Row, Topeka, Kansas.

His letters written he took his coat and hat and started to the Post Office to mail them. He had no notion of writing to any one else, not even to Hannah whom he loved dearly.

Bennie settled down to work, and while he drank some, and often stayed out late, yet he managed to save a little money, which he left with the widow with whom he boarded, for safe keeping telling her he might need it a little later on, as he would likely move on to some other place. And this was true.

We shall see.

That loving soul Hannah, broken hearted, heaved many a sigh as she thot of Bennie's going, without giving her a chance to explain. And one day she said to her dear mother, "It is over a month since Bennie left and no word, yet. I am sure that Aunt Sarah would let me know as soon as she hears, for she understands."

Hannah's thoughts were absolutely true, for the first thing that Aunt Sarah thought of was to write and tell Hannah the news, for she knew this dear soul loved Bennie and was broken-hearted over his disappearance, so soon after his visit.

So his aunt sat down at once and wrote to Hannah telling her that he was working and would be in Topeka for some time and that he would go farther South but that he was thinking of the loved ones he had left behind and how he missed the home folks. "Hannah dear, I am enclosing his address so if you care to write to him, you can do so."

"He speaks of you, dear in the fondest terms and it makes my heart ache, to think of him going off without one word of explanation. But dear, he loves you so much that he does not want to stand in your way,so he takes his own way of expressing

his feelings, by going away to forget his love and bury his grief.

I am telling you this for I feel you should know and I hope our Bennie will realize that you are suffering on his account and write to you, or better yet, come to you. So dear, have courage and I trust all will be made right.

I hope your mother is improving rapidly and will soon be restored to health and be spared for many years. With best wishes for a happy reunion and with sincere love, I remain as ever—”

Aunt Sarah.

The day following Hannah received her letter in the afternoon mail, and as her father had left for work, she took her letter upstairs, to be with her mother while reading it.

She was all excited as she entered her mother's room and said, “Mother, I have a letter from Bennie's Aunt Sarah and I'll read it to you. After she was through reading, her mother said, “Now, Hannah dear, I would write Bennie a nice letter, telling him how sorry you were that he had left in such a hurry, due to a mis-understanding between you, and that you deeply regret that such a thing had occurred, but that you meant it for the good of both of you.

That you were delighted to hear from Aunt Sarah, that he was well and working and that you hope he will return soon, that you love him just as ever, and always will love him. Tell him that you have prayed every night to the Father of All-Wisdom to protect him and bring him safely back to you, for you love him dearly.

That is true Hannah, you do love him and we all love him.” Hannah said she would just copy the letter for it was well expressed and I do love him, mother, and as the days go by, my love for him is so intense and far-reaching that I do not think I could live happily, now, without Bennie.

She sat down and penned the letter but did not seal it, for she wanted her father to read it first. In this home there were no secrets and we find harmony peace and concord. As soon as her father came in and saw Hannah's smiling face he knew she had heard from Bennie.

"Well, Hannah dear," said he, "What's the good news?" She asked him how he knew she had good news? He told her that was easy to tell for your face is all radiant with smiles, and your eyes sparkle like stars. "So my face is a tell tale, is it?"

"Yes, father dear, I have good news, and a heavy burden has been lifted from me and I feel light hearted once more, my soul rejoices. I had a letter from Bennie's Aunt Sarah who confided in me and I want you to read the letter. Then I want you to read the one I am going to send to Bennie, Mother dictated it and I think you will agree with me that it is very well put."

After reading both letters her father said to her, "Well Hannah that reminds me of the letters your mother used to send to me, so full of her true sweet self and they always made me want to be a little better and thus I kept on improving so as to please her."

Mr. Sharp then told Hannah that he knew their love was mutual, that each one showed it by their actions, and he said, "I am indeed sorry that you had that mis-understanding but I hope dear, that in the near future, your love for each other will bring you together in a happy union."

We readily see the true expression of the soul of Mr. Sharp and he meant every word of it. The Sharp family loved and adored each other and there was confidence manifested at all times.

As Hannah mailed her letter to Bennie she sent out her loving thoughts that he be led by a Guiding Hand, and not a single night passed that she did not pray for him—Her Only Love.

Christmas was over still Bennie worked on, and

with the New Year came cold weather, bitter cold weather and as a result the work on the building was shut down as it was too cold for outside work. Thus several men were laid off, including Bennie.

So Bennie informed his boarding mistress that he was out of work and would be leaving the first of the week. She said, "Well, I suppose you will want to take your money, Bennie?" And he told her it was necessary, as he knew not where he might roam. So she assured him it was alright, she would draw it out of the bank for him as she knew it was safer there than lying in the house.

"Well, well," said Bennie, "How thoughtful of you." The good old soul got his money early Monday morning and gave it to him. He thanked her for all her kindness and courtesy to him at all times and told her he expected to leave that afternoon on the two o'clock train for the South, as he was going to Oklahoma, where he intended to spend the winter.

"If any letters come for me, please hold them till I send you my address and I'll thank you in advance and some day I'll invite you to my wedding." "And when will that be, Bennie? And who is the lady and where does she live?"

Bennie struck a snag, he wished right then and there he had not joked about his wedding, for it struck him to the heart. "Oh, he said, she lives in the East, in Pennsylvania, and is a loving soul, "He could say no more, he was full to overflowing.

Bennie went out to make inquiry about his train and when he came back she was preparing dinner, so he told her he left at Two O'clock. She said she would have dinner ready and not detain him.

He ate his dinner, settled his board bill and again thanked the old lady for her interest in him and bidding her good-bye, he took his grips and was gone. Late the following day Bennie landed in McAllister, Oklahoma, a stranger—a wanderer. He secured

a room at a small hotel for the night and being tired, he soon retired.

Bright and early we find Bennie up and around, for he wanted to look for work. He found that work was not to be had. So he thought of the mines and perhaps that will be a good place to work the remainder of the winter."

No sooner said than done, he inquired about the mines and was told the nearest mine was about a mile and a half out of town. So he started for the mine.

Arriving there, he enquired at the office where he could see the mine-forman. He was told if he would wait until noon that the fore-man would be here.

"Are you looking for work," asked the clerk? "Yes Sir," said Bennie. The clerk asked him what kind of work he wanted and Bennie told him he was not particular, he was willing to take most anything. "You know I used to be a mule-driver when quite a boy, but later I worked in the mines with my Father, but I am a stone-cutter by trade."

"Oh well, you have had some experience," said the clerk. "Oh yes, some," replied Bennie. "I know we are full up said the clerk, but I'll see the foreman for you." So Bennie thanked the old gentleman.

"My Mother is with me, thought Bennie, for as she would say to me, it was the Hand of God, bless her dear soul, here I am wandering about, and tossed like a ship at sea, when I could have been living at home, with loving hands helping me, if I had not be so hasty."

Soon the foreman came into the office and the clerk spoke to him first. He said, "Dick (his name was Dick Whittaker), I know you are full handed just now, but here is a man that I think would make a good hand on that double team of mules. I have talked to him while he was waiting to see you, and he impresses me very much, and if you

will give him the job, I shall esteem it a great favor."

"What is your name," asked the foreman? "Bennie Gregory" was the reply. "Well, said the foreman, you can go up to the boarding house and arrange for board, and you can come out to work in the morning, and report to the Boss-hauler, as I will mention to him that you are to take the team." "All right sir," said Bennie.

Bennie was now more satisfied, for it was not easy to secure work. He went and engaged boarding and a room. He then went back to the hotel and got his baggage and took it to the boarding-house.

When he got there he could smell the supper cooking and it made him hungry for he had only taken a lunch at noon and was now ready for a hot meal. He had not long to wait for supper was about to be served.

The men took their places and a man waiter came up to Bennie showed him his place, as he said very pleasantly, "My good brother, you will always occupy this seat at the table while you are here." Bennie thanked him.

Taking his baggage to his room, he sat down and wrote to the old lady in Topeka, asking her to forward any mail to the enclosed address and wished her success. This being off his mind he went out to mail his letter, for he was anxiously awaiting mail from home, feeling they would lose no time in writing.

He returned to his room, and to rest, for he was to go on a new job, in the morning. He was awakened by the rising bell, this was a new feature to Bennie, for he was accustomed to being called to breakfast.

He missed his Aunt Sarah and Oh! how lonely he was, away from all his people who had so willingly catered to his wants at all times. But now things were quite different, he was among strang-

ers and must concede to the custom of the house.

Breakfast over, he starts for work and reports to the Boss-hauler as he had been told. "Yes, I was instructed to give you the team, and you can get them out of the stable and I will send a man with you to-day to show you the grades, then you can get along alright." Bennie thanked him.

Bennie was in deep thought as he entered the stable, what friendly people they are here, every one you meet is so kind and considerate. Bennie got along very well with the team, and as he worked day after day, he took great interest in his work, hauling all he possibly could, besides he took extra good care of the team. In this way he made many friends,—the foreman—the boss-hauler—and the old clerk who took an interest in him from the very first.

This kind hearted gentleman would stop to talk to Bennie and tell him he was glad to hear favorable reports about your work, my boy, and I thought I was not mistaken in you, for I could see you wanted work, and knowing how scarce jobs were, I sympathised with you, Benny, and I am not sorry I spoke for you."

Bennie thanked him and said that he hoped some day to be able to repay him for his kindness. "Bennie, my boy, you are repaying me, now, with interest, because you are not betraying the confidence I placed in you".

"No Sir, my dear mother instilled in me to do what is right between man and God, at all times, and I shall always do her bidding."

Bennie worked faithfully, deeply interested in his work, but anxious to hear from home. Three weeks had elapsed and then he received two letters, one from Aunt Sarah and the other from his dear sweet mother. She told him all the news and said, "Your Father is not very well but we hope it is nothing serious".

Two days later he received a telegram—"Father

dangerously ill, come home at once.—Mother” This had also been forwarded from Topeka, Kansas. The telegram was received at the boarding house and was sent to the Mine Office. The clerk seeing it was for Bennie, exclaimed, “For Bennie, he shall have it at once, so he called one of the men near the opening and told him to go inside and see that Bennie Gregory gets this without delay, for it may be very important.”

The man said he would find him and deliver it personally. He had no trouble in finding Bennie and when he had read the message, he turned to the bearer and said, “I must go at once, and I am going to tie the team here and I would be pleased if you would find the boss-hauler and let him know I have been called home at once on account of the serious illness of my father.”

The man consented and Bennie went out and straight to the office, where the clerk was anxiously waiting to know if Bennie had received bad news from home. “Yes, said Bennie, “My father is dangerously ill and my mother wants me to come at once. I am going to obey her call, and if you will give me what little money I have coming, I’ll pay my board and start for Staunton, Virginia, as soon as possible.”

The old gentleman told him he would gladly give him what he had earned, “But if you need a little more, I will let you have it, gladly, but I regret very much to see you leave. I hope that your father will fully recover and to see you back with us. It is natural that being the oldest son, that your mother should call on you in a case of this kind.”

Bennie said “That was one reason, but there is one still more important she wants me near her. “He went on to tell his friend of the attachment between them—a mutual love, love that does not exist between my other brothers and sisters, because I have always been inclined to be wayward—

a wanderer—my mother looked after me with loving care and guidance, and always advised me to heed Her Guiding Voice, wherever I might be, for she would impress me what to do at all times.

“I often feel her loving presence about me when I am in trouble, trying to lead me to do right, and when I came to McAllister and found no work to be had, it was her loving inspired thought that led me to the mine Office, and I fully believe it was her loving presence that led you, my dear friend, to ask the foreman and to plead in my behalf, for which I want to thank you from the depths of my heart and soul.

The old clerk laid his hand on Bennie’s shoulder as he said, “You are certainly blessed with a loving mother, and how you must miss her, and how glad she will be to have you near, and I would say to you, Bennie, my boy, stay home with her.”

He went on telling how much he regretted his father’s illness and that he was obliged to leave them, “but home is your place, my boy, home with your dear old mother who is longing for you. So get your things ready and I’ll inquire about trains through for you.”

Glad of this assistance, Bennie hurried to his boarding house, packed his belongings, settled his bill and said he was called home on account of sickness. He hurried back to the Mine Office to find out about trains, as he came in, his old friend, the clerk, said, “I was just coming over to tell you that if you leave on the One-thirty you make splendid connections through to Cincinnati. Then you have a couple of hours to decide which route to take you the most direct to the Virginia Valley to your destination, Staunton, Virginia.

Bennie thanked the clerk for all his kindness and generosity and promised to take his advice and start for home at once. He told him he hoped he would always be led by a Guiding Hand and that

he would be rewarded for his kindness in the mansions of the blessed.

Bennie went to dinner but only took time to get a few bites in order to get the early train. The old clerk went to dinner also, but in another direction, as he was staying in a private home nearby. He told Bennie to hurry so as not to miss his train. He had secured Bennie's ticket and had it all ready for him, and it was well he did, for the train pulled in a few minutes after Bennie came.

Settling for the ticket he shook hands with his faithful friend and as he stepped on the train the old man said, "Write as soon as you arrive, for I am anxious to hear how your father is, and now good-bye, may God bless and protect you on your homeward journey, my boy."

Now that he was safely on the train, he relapsed and had time to think. He thought of his dear mother in her hour of trial, of all the folks at home, of his Aunt Sarah and Uncle Joe, of Hannah, his true and only love. As he thought of her, he wondered what she thought of him, and had he but known that she had written him a long loving letter, asking him to come home for she loved him just the same.

But unfortunately he was never to receive this missive of love and esteem, for in some way it was routed wrong and finally came back to her, marked uncalled for, and unknown. So he never knew how anxious Hannah and her parents were to receive and welcome Bennie into their home.

Hannah worried about this and could not understand it, but such was the case and Bennie would have been amazed had he known it. His mind turned to the new friend whom he had just left, how kind he had been and even now he would be wiring Mother Gregory that her boy was on the way. Bennie had full faith that he would keep his promise and get the message started at once.

After many weary and anxious hours, the train

arrived at Cincinnati and Bennie finds he has two hours leisure before his train would leave for The Virginia Valley. He procures his ticket and then gets something to eat and puts in the time sight-seeing, as there were many things of interest to a stranger.

Thus our Bennie did not find the time hang heavy while in Cincinnati, for he put in his time going to see the places of interest. He was back at the depot in plenty of time to attend to his baggage and get on the train which left at 2 P.M. arriving at Staunton about 4 P.M. the following day. He knew his mother would expect him at that time.

As he sped along, he was thinking of the past, the errors he had made, how much suffering he had needlessly called into existence, all because he had that weakness which he was now deciding to overcome at all hazards.

Yes, this was the home stretch and the nearer he came, the more he realized the need of turning over a new life and being a comfort to his dear mother.

But We Shall See.

"Few are thy days, and full of woe,
O man, of woman born!
Thy doom is written, "Dust thou art,"
And unto dust return.
Behold the emblem of thy state,
In flowers that bloom and die.
Or in the shadows of fleeting form,
That mocks the gazer's eye.

Guilty and frail, how shalt thou stand
Before thy sovereign God?
Can troubled and polluted springs
A hallow'd stream afford.
Determin'd are the days that fly
Successive o'er thy head;
The numbered hour is on the wing
That lays thee with the dead.

Great God, afflict not in Thy wrath,
The short allotted span.
That bounds the few and weary days
Of pilgrimage to man.
All nature dies, and lives again;
The flowers that paint the field.
The trees that crown the mountain's brow
And boughs and blossoms yield.

So days and years and ages past,
Descending down to night,
Cann henceforth never more return
Back to the gates of Light.
And man, when laid in lonesome grave,
Shall sleep in death's dark gloom,
Until the Eternal morning wake
His Spirit wends its way from he tomb.

O may the grave become to me
A bed of peaceful rest
When my spirit shall gladly rise,
And mingle with the Blest:
Cheered by this hope, and with patient mind,
I'll await heaven's high decree,
Till the appointed period come,
When death shall set me free."

Mother Gregory had received the wire and she was anxiously waiting to welcome her wandering boy: so she had sent Marie and Clyde to the station to meet Bennie. They found that the train was about an hour late so they waited patiently but the time seemed endless to these two, for they knew their mother would be wondering why they did not come. To Bennie this last hour never seemed to pass, he too, was thinking of some one whom he knew would be anxious, and so at last the long train pulled into the station at Staunton, Virginia, and our wanderer lost no time in getting off, such a stream of people, getting on and off, going from one place to another.

As Bennie stepped on the platform, Marie ran up to him and threw her arms about his neck and kissed him, before he had time to realize it was his little sister, Marie. Clyde received his oldest

brother warmly, and after looking to his baggage, they hastened home, to mother.

She met him in the dining room, silently kissing him and embracing him as in days gone by. Bennie inquired about his father, and went immediately to his room. John Gregory brightened up when he beheld his son once more.

"How are you feeling, Father"? "I get very sharp pains at times, but the doctor is giving me something to ease them." Bennie stayed by his bed-side until he was called for supper. Father and son had much to talk over, although Bennie did most of the talking. He inquired about the Thomas Family and the work.

Bennie spoke of his travels and the people he had met and the kind clerk he had just left in Oklahoma. Just then Peggy and her children came in to greet the brother who had stayed away so long. He was surprised to see how the children had grown and how well behaved they were!

How they loved to listen to Grand-ma Gregory as she told them stories, just as she had told them to her own little ones, the lessons she taught, the example she set before them, to do good and be good, and they would receive nothing but goodness.

Bennie ate very little, his heart was overflowing, as he thought of his dear kind mother, but he did not let her know how anxious he was. That morning the doctor had told Mrs. Gregory that her husband had a severe case of Typhoid Pneumonia and it would be hard on him on account of his age, and also his fondness for intoxicants. Mother Gregory asked, "Is there any danger?" The doctor told her it was hard to tell just yet what the results may be.

"I want to know for I am expecting my son this evening". The doctor told her his heart was very weak, but he would call later and if he was failing he would give him a stimulant to keep him up.

So that was how Bennie found his Father, the doctor had given him a stimulant to ease the severe pain, and keep him alive to see his child. That night Bennie took his mother's place by the bed-side, so she could get a little rest which she needed badly.

When the doctor came and examined John Gregory he found his pulse very weak, heart losing out, so he shook his head. Mother Gregory went downstairs and asked "How is my husband, doctor, is he improving, or getting worse??"

"I'll be frank with you, Mrs. Gregory, we can look for a change to take place any time now. During the night Mother Gregory talked to her husband about his Soul, asked him if he realized he was soon to leave them? "I want you, Johnny, to make your peace with God."

"Yes, I realize I shall not be with you long, lassie, but I know God will protect you always. I know I have not done what was right and just in the past to my family, but of late I have seen my folly, and lived a better life, as you know. And I shall always remember Arthur's words that made me change, for he said to me I would have to quit drinking whiskey, if I wanted to stay around him, —and I did so, and I thanked him many times since for what he said."

About 10, a.m. while Bennie was sitting by his Father's bedside, his father spoke to him in a faint whisper, and said: "Tell your mother to come, I want to see her." going downstairs at once, as father called for his mother to come at once, as father wants you.

Mother Gregory had been only a few minutes at her husband's bedside when John Gregory said in a faint whisper: "Good Bye Margaret, give them all my love;" and John Gregory passed away peacefully, his spirit gone to occupy one of the many mansions that are prepared for those who depart this life.

CHAPTER XVIII

BENNIE REMAINS WITH HIS WIDOWED MOTHER

Mother Gregory now has her Bennie with her, to comfort and cheer her, in her hour of tribulation and sorrow. Bennie was a great comfort to Mother Gregory. For she said to him, "Bennie dear, I can not do without you, for you must stay with me and take your father's place in our home."

"No, mother dear," said Bennie, "I shall not leave you, I will remain with you always." Arthur had made all necessary arrangements with reference to laying away the mortal remains of John Gregory. The undertaker told him that every care would be bestowed on the preparation and there would be no doubt as to the body keeping, in order to allow the relatives to come from Philadelphia and other places, but as he said "There is a certain restriction on length of time to keep a corpse that had any fever, and as you know this was a Typhoid Pneumonia case, and I must abide by the law."

A wire had been forwarded to Philadelphia immediately announcing the death of John Gregory, so Aunt Sarah immediately phoned Amelia of her Father's death. That same evening Aunt Sarah, Uncle Joe, Millie and Amelia with her husband and daughter started for Staunton, Virginia. They arrived early the next evening.

Uncle Joe had wired in return to Bennie, so when the train pulled in, Bennie and Clyde were there to meet the folks at the station and see them home. As the Thomas home was close by, they walked and were soon greeted by all the others excepting Mother Gregory, who was upstairs.

Aunt Sarah went to her sister at once. This

was a sad coming to-gether, as soon as Mother Gregory could speak, she said, "Sarah, my Johnny has gone, but oh, how he suffered towards the last, but now I know he is not suffering any more. I am all alone now in the world;" clasping her sister to her, she sobbed aloud.

"Try and console yourself, sister dear, for you are not alone, for you now have Bennie, Clyde, and dear little Marie, and they all love their mother dearly. I am sure of that." Mother Gregory told Sarah she knew she was loved by them all, but Johnny has been taken away from me, "And I hope to be with him soon in the mansion of the blest."

"Do you know, Sarah, I was standing by the casket, where now lays the form of my Johnny, and I felt an audible voice saying, "Margaret—Margaret I am not dead—There is no death, but my spirit is in an abode prepared for me." I could hear quite clearly and I was thinking of him at the time for I was crying and he tried to console me. Sarah dear, I have often read—

"It is not death to die;
To leave this weary load,
And midst the brotherhood on high
To be at home with God.

It is not death to close
The eye long dimmed by tears;
And wake, in glorious repose
To spend eternal years.

It is not death to fling
Aside this sinful dust,
And rise, on strong exulting wing,
To live among the just."

"So with that thought on my mind, I shall be satisfied, that some day, not far distant, I shall be with the One I love, My Johnny. That is a beautiful thought indeed, replied Aunt Sarah." "Yes," said Mother Gregory—

"Though dark my path and sad my lot
Let me be still and murmur not,
And breathe the prayer Divinely taught
Thy Will be done.

What thoughts in lonely grief I sigh
For friends beloved—no longer nigh,
Submissive still, would I reply
Thy Will be done."

Such were the loving thoughts Mother Gregory had on her mind, and if ever a woman was a devout Christian—she was, for she loved her Johnny—her children, her neighbors and all the human family.

Final arrangements were made for the funeral services, which were to take place from the home of Arthur Thomas, two days later.

Arthur Thomas missed John Gregory as a dear friend. Many happy moments had they spent in each others company, for during the time they had been in Staunton, Virginia, John Gregory had become a changed man entirely, and was well liked by his fellow workmen in general.

When the time for holding the services was at hand, we find many friends and associates gathered together to show respect. The services were conducted by the Presbyterian Minister, a loving white haired man, who spoke of the deceased as a man who had turned to God in later years, and whose Spirit is now resting in peace. Following a short prayer, they sang—

"Abide with me fast falls the eventide,
The darkness deepens, God with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day,
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away,
Change and decay, all around I see,
O, Thou who changest not, abide with me."

After a short prayer at the grave, the remains of John Gregory were lowered into his last resting place—and as the minister read on—

“Soon shall this earthly frame, dissolved in death and
ruins lie;
But better mansions wait the just, prepared above the
sky.
A house eternal, built by God, shall lodge the holy
mind;
When once those prison walls have fallen, by which
'tis now confined.”

“Hence, burdened by the weight of clay,
We groan beneath the load,
Waiting the hour which sets us free,
And brings us home to God.
We know, that when the Soul, unclothed,
Shall from this body fly,
'Twill animate a purer frame
With life that can not die.”

As we look upon the above words we readily see and read the mind of the Minister—that he is inspired by a Divine Intelligence—that he is a broad-minded man not afraid to send out such thoughts upon the atmosphere.

The services over, Bennie escorts his mother, and all return to the Thomas home. Mother Gregory knew and realized that Johnny's Spirit was very close, for she felt his loving influence about her.

She kept herself composed, with that faith and assurance that ere long she would join her loved one beyond the veil. Arthur and Teresa always sympathized with their mother, and in her hour of bereavement they gave her full assurance of their love and duty.

Bennie now realized that it was his duty to his mother, and to God, to stay at home and take care of his mother, and he said to her, “Mother dear, don't grieve. You still have Clyde, Marie and me to care for you and I promise you I shall not leave

you any more. We all love you dearly, and will try to make you happy."

"I can not help but grieve, my boy," said his mother, for your father has been my faithful companion for forty-four years and I am now sixty-four years of age, and I am asking God to take me unto himself when he sees fit to do so."

"For I know my usefulness is about at end,
And my race is nearly run,
And this I know, and my thoughts trend,
For tis victory I have won."

During the following week, Uncle Joe, Aunt Sarah and Millie left for Philadelphia, leaving Mother Gregory in her sorrow, but they left a thought with her, that should she need them at any time, they would gladly respond to the call.

Arthur Thomas with his wife's aid, now took charge of Bennie. Arthur felt it his duty to remind Bennie of his duty to his mother. A few evenings later he asked Bennie to come into the living room as he wanted a few minutes alone with him. So Bennie complied and after they were seated, Arthur said, "Now Bennie, as you are your mother's oldest son, you no doubt realize that your dear mother is relying on you for help—I want to help you—to help her. I have planned with your sister, Teresa, and we want you to take your father's place,—that is to work in his place, although you have not had the experience that your father had, yet I am confident that you will make good. Will you do it, Bennie?"

"Arthur, I always knew of your attachment to my father and mother, and that they always felt at home with you and Teresa, so if you think I can fill my father's place, then I shall accept your kind offer. I also want to thank you for the kindness bestowed upon my parents and hope that God will repay you four-fold."

"Bennie, my boy, I have already been paid, for when I do a kindness, I see smiling, happy faces, then I am happy, for in helping others and seeing them happy, makes me happy. So that is settled and now take care of mother for a few days, and brighten her life all you can, and in a few days you can start to work."

Bennie would take his dear mother for little walks out in the country, so one day he told her he was going to work. "Where are you going to work, Bennie?" "Arthur has arranged that I shall go to work with him in a few days, mother dear." "How good of him," said Mother Gregory.

"He has been an ideal son to us, ever since we met him he has been so kind and generous. I think it must have been the hand of God that led us to him, my boy. I always pray for his welfare, that blessings may be bestowed upon him for his goodness to us at all times."

A few days had now elapsed, and Bennie had started to work and was doing fine although the work was strange to him. His mother would ask him how he was progressing and Arthur heard her ask how he liked the work.

Arthur answered Mother Gregory, saying, "Bennie is certainly doing fine, he takes great interest in his work and shows a willing spirit to push ahead, and that is the main spring and basis of all business, for without effort, you can not accomplish anything."

Bennie told his mother that he thought he would like the work, but it was strange to him and that made it difficult at times, but Arthur says, "I am interested and shall make good by straining every effort available."

"Bennie, my boy, I know you will be successful, for your Uncle Joe always praised you for the effort put forth." She told him how she asked for his success and of how happy they would be, now that he was to remain with her.

Another thing, Bennie, "I want you to explain what came between you and Hannah." "I will tell you, mother, but wait till after supper, when we can have a quiet talk to ourselves." So she was satisfied.

That evening found mother and son in her room, the door closed, and no one would disturb their meeting. "Now Bennie dear, tell me all about Hannah, and what came between you, dear."

Bennie said, "Well, mother dear I have wanted to tell you, but refrained on account of circumstances, knowing you had a burden to carry, I did not want to add to it, or have you worry. But now as we are alone, I shall explain. You recall, mother, while in Philadelphia, I asked your advice as to what would be a suitable wedding present from Hannah and I to Elizabeth and Harry, and you suggested a set of silver knives and forks."

"Yes, Bennie, I remember very well of suggesting them to you." Bennie told her how he had asked Hannah to come to Philadelphia to help select the gift, which she did, arriving on a Saturday afternoon, and spent the week end at Aunt Sarah's.

"That was loving of Hannah to come to Philadelphia to select the gift," said his mother. Bennie thought it showed her love for him, too. We went up town together and selected the wedding gift, and then I asked the salesman to show us some diamond rings. I wanted Hannah to select her engagement ring, but as she hesitated, I selected a beauty and she was more than pleased with it."

"Hannah did not put on the ring at the time but requested that we wait until we had had a little talk at Aunt Sarah's. She wanted to have a chance to talk alone with me. So our shopping completed, we got Hannah's bag and started for Aunt Sarah's, where Hannah received a warm welcome, Mother dear."

"After supper, Aunt Sarah, Hannah and I went up stairs to the sewing room. Now Hannah said,

"Bennie dear, before I put on this engagement ring, I want you to make a vow to me." "What do you want me to do, Hannah," I asked?

"That you refrain from drinking any intoxicants from now on, and should you break your vow, I shall break mine with you, for Hannah had agreed to marry me within a year."

Bennie's mother now spoke and said, "What a remarkable woman Hannah must be, what forethought, and my dear boy, it was for your welfare, as well as her own and I should have been proud to see her the wife of my dear boy." "But go on with the story, Bennie."

Well, mother dear, said Bennie, "I made my vow in the presence of Aunt Sarah, and as I put on Hannah's ring I kissed her, for I truly loved her, and she returned my love." In a few weeks she invited me to spend a week end in Chester with her family and I did so the following week."

"How thoughtful of you, Bennie dear, to respond to her wish." "I had a splendid visit with the Sharp family, and was very much attached to Hannah's mother because she reminded me so much of you, for she is a dear soul, and I could sit all night listening to her, just like you, mother dear."

"I had to leave Sunday evening as I had to be at work Monday morning, so Hannah came to the station with me to see me off, and on parting, the last words she said to me as I kissed her were," "Now Bennie, do not forget your vow, for if you break your vow, then I shall break mine with you."

"The train pulled out of the station and I waved a loving farewell to Hannah. As time went on, I could not erase from my mind what Hannah had said. I thought it over, mother dear, for it seemed to me more like a threat than anything else I could think of." Bennie's mother stopped him, and said, "Bennie I am surprised at you, to think that that dear soul, who shows to me very clearly, her love for you, trying to keep you in the straight and nar-

row path, and who tries to warn you when you go astray, that you should be so thoughtless as to say she was threatening you. No, my dear boy, do not ever think that, and if you can apologize to her and make amends do so at once."

"Yes, mother, I have reflected and thought over this very seriously, I realize I was too hasty, and should have given Hannah the opportunity to explain." "But as you know, instead, I wandered away, away among strangers, away from all I loved My mother, Aunt Sarah and Uncle Joe who was so good to me at all times. Oh! how I yearned to be at home—to be with my love—my Hannah, for I loved her, mother, and I love her still."

"Love, ever watchful, never sleeps,
Nor in its duty fails,
With pleasure laughs and sorrow weeps,
In grief it never quails.
When human lives discordant turned
And hearts are rent in twain,
It soothing flows o'er bleeding wounds,
And heals them up again.

Love with patience suffering long
In silence to endure.
To right the hasty deeds of wrong
Love steadfast, calm and sure.
It penetrates the hardest heart,
Like diamond cuts the steel,
To soften up the stony part
Sweet tender Love to feel."

Such were the thoughts of Bennie, for he loved Hannah Sharp with devotion and she respondingly gave her love in full—she too, loved Bennie sincerely.

The next morning, Bennie went to work with a lighter heart, for he had confided in his dear mother, now she knew all, and his burden was lifted. He realized how willingly she would bear it for him if that were possible, but having told it, lightened and relieved his mind.

So we, too, can share the burdens of others who are near and dear to us and by so doing we make their path more easy to tread and lighten their load. And truly both are benefitted. For you give the opportunity for renewed strength to the one relieved—and in return your own powers are strengthened.

Therefore we can readily sympathize with our Wanderer, (Bennie), when he can go and open his heart to his mother and let her share his burden. We ask ourselves was he doing right to wander off, leaving his love to grieve for him? If we take up history, and penetrate in its depths, we find, that men and women, self-inflicted themselves in order to prove their love for the Infinite—God. Was it right?

Again, in this United States, we find in this age of civilization, that many people were burned at the stake, because they were termed witches, simply because they had the power to fore tell or prophesy. Was it right?

King Saul had his sooth sayers and wise men to advise him, but due to his wickedness, God took away the power and these same wise men could no longer advise Saul, so before going into battle with the Philistines, King Saul accompanied by a servant, went to the home of a witch, (The Woman of Endor) and Samuel appeared and advised Saul that on the morrow, he and his two sons would be with Samuel in Spirit. Was it right?

The Master, when he asked the woman of Samaria for a drink and was told she had nothing to give, but as they talked she was astonished, and he said, go tell thy husband—and she said, “I have no husband.” He told her she had had five husbands and the man with whom thou art now living is not thy husband. In this thou speakest truly.” Was it right?

Like Bennie, we do things that we can not account for, we seem to be led by an unseen force,

ever leading us on, and often we swerve from the path of duty, but the question is, what is our duty? What may be duty to one, may not be a duty to another, so we differ.

But if we keep a tab on ourselves, love our neighbor as ourselves, with brotherly love—co-operating one with another, in a band of good fellowship, observing the Golden Rule, “Do unto others, as you would have others do unto you.” Then we will be doing right.

No, Bennie did not do what was right, and he knew it, and he must repay “for truly as he sowed, so shall he reap. We must all make amends for wrongs done in the past. This is Natural Law and is Universal.

Let us follow Bennie closely, see in what way he will make amends to his love—Hannah, for the wrongs done her.

WE SHALL SEE.

Mother Gregory received a letter from her sister Sarah, telling of their safe arrival in Philadelphia and sympathizing with her in her grief. She said she had intended to tell her and Bennie about a letter which Hannah had written to him at Topeka, Kansas, but it was returned to her unclaimed.

She told how she had given Hannah Bennie’s address telling that Bennie still loved her, but could not make up his mind to write and tell her so. Of course I told her this was confidential and she could use her pleasure in writing to him. After a while I received a letter from Hannah saying she had written but her letter was returned.

“Sister dear, I wanted to ask him about Hannah’s letter and if he had answered it. We are all well, Millie is doing fine and I do not think she will be working a great while for she has so many admirers, that I am confident that she will soon marry.”

“I hope you are resting and do not worry, for you gain nothing by it. We all send our love to Arthur and Peggy and their children, also to Clyde and

Marie. We had a heavy snowfall last night and how beautiful nature looks garbed in a mantle of snow. Let me hear from you soon—lovingly—Your Sister—Sarah.”

Aunt Sarah’s news with reference to Hannah’s letter surprised Mother Gregory, she wondered that Bennie had not told her about getting a letter. So when the men came home that evening she watched her chance to ask Bennie.

While Teresa and Marie were doing the dishes, she asked Bennie to come to her room for a few moments. He did so and when alone she told about Aunt Sarah’s letter saying that Hannah had written you, while in Topeka, I believe.

“Now, Bennie dear, did you receive that letter?”

“No, mother that is news to me for had I received it I could not have helped writing, for I love Hannah and always shall love her. How I longed to be at her side, instead of away off among strangers.”

“Now, Bennie dear why not write to Hannah and tell her what Aunt Sarah has written and so tell her that your letter was not received as you had gone on to Oklahoma and her letter must have been returned. Do not forget to tell her that you realized your mistake, in not going to see her instead of wandering off in such a hasty manner. Tell her you are yearning for her love and that you hope she will forgive you.

“I know, Bennie dear, that she will answer your letter and she will rejoice to hear from her wandering Bennie.” “I will gladly write to Hannah, mother dear and find out if the letter was returned to her, but mother, had I received that letter, I would have been on the first train going to Chester. That expresses from the depths of my soul, my love for Hannah, does it not, mother?” “Yes, it does, my boy,” said his mother.

Arthur Thomas had been advised through negotiations with a large concern, that they had a position as inspector of public works in New York

State, and asking him whether he cared to accept it.

Arthur consulted his wife and he gave her the letter to read for herself. After considering the proposition from all sides they came to the conclusion that New York would be a better place for all of them.

Mother Gregory told Arthur to please himself, that if it suited him and his wife, it was all right with her. She was willing to go any place with them.

Bennie had written a long letter to Hannah, telling her he was now home with his mother in Staunton, Virginia. That he had been called home on account of the death of his father. He told how he yearned for her and how he longed to be with her. He also mentioned that Aunt Sarah had written, saying you had written to me at Topeka, Kansas, but Hannah dear, I did not get that letter, so it must have gone to you. He inquired about her father and mother and sent his love.

CHAPTER XIX

ARTHUR THOMAS NOW LOCATED IN NEW YORK. DEATH OF HANNAH'S MOTHER.

Arthur Thomas accepted the position in New York but advised the company that it would be a month or six weeks before he would take charge, as he had a contract to complete. This was satisfactory and he was advised to come as soon as possible, and to wire them when he was leaving for New York.

Preparations were made for the departure. Mother Gregory rather liked this change for as she said to Teresa, "We will be nearer our relatives and friends, dear." She was thinking of Bennie, who she knew would go back to his trade, and work with Uncle Joe in Philadelphia again. In Speaking of Bennie, she said, "How I pray that he may listen to my Guiding Voice, and I know he would be benefitted, for I would lead him in the right road and impress him day by day, to live a better life. To make him have a better understanding of things, for I feel that I am inspired to speak to my boy, and help him choose a home for his weary soul."

"From the Soul of a man who was homeless,
Came the deathless song of home;
And the praises of rest are chanted best
By those who are forced to roam."

One evening about a week later, as all the family were assembled together, that Arthur asked Bennie what he was thinking of doing? Bennie said, "Well, Arthur, I expect to go back to my trade, when we leave here, and I was thinking of asking Mother to let Clyde go with me, for there is plenty

of work that he can find to do, in Philadelphia, and he will always be under the care and guidance of our dear Aunt Sarah."

"Well, said Arthur, "I think your plans are very good, and I think mother will consent to let Clyde go with you, but Mother and Marie go with us, that is a settled fact." Bennie told him that he realized that mother would stay with Teresa, as she was so attached to the children, and and they dearly loved their Grand-mother.

Mother Gregory spoke up and said, "Yes, Bennie, I feel my race on earth is nearly run, and I, too, shall soon be on the borderland of Spirit, but while I sojourn here, I want to make my home with Arthur and Teresa, and my dear Grand-children. But if Clyde wants to go with you to Philadelphia and work there, I am sure he would get along nicely, as you say, he will be under the protection of Aunt Sarah, Uncle Joe and yourself, Bennie."

She would have liked to take Clyde with her, but she felt he would be well taken care of, and perhaps have more openings in Philadelphia, than in a strange city, so she consented, for she would not stand in his way.

Bennie wrote to Aunt Sarah and told her how sorry he was that Hannah's letter was returned, unclaimed but assured her that had he received it, "he would have been home long ago, or know why, auntie, don't you?" Because I have never ceased loving Hannah, and how I yearn for her love. I have written to Hannah explaining every thing and I hope she can forgive me. As soon as I hear from her, I shall let you know."

"I may be in Philadelphia soon, as Arthur has accepted a position as Inspector for a large concern in New York, but will inform you better in next letter." "Tell Uncle Joe I am coming back and if he can use me it's all right, and if not, why I shall look elsewhere."

"All are well, but mother seems to feel her loss deeply, so we all try to brighten her life and do all we can to cheer and keep her from grieving. I want to say candidly, auntie, that I am a changed man, as I realized my faults, and from now on, you will see a different Bennie, than of the past. Give our love to Millie and Uncle Joe not forgetting your self. I am lovingly"—Bennie of the Future.

WE SHALL SEE.

All were busy packing and crating the household goods for the Thomas family were to leave next week. As this was a long ways to move, things had to be carefully crated. Now that the time was at hand, all seemed anxious to go, especially Bennie, as he was anxious to be in Philadelphia—to be near Hannah, his only love.

He did not have to wait long, on Hannah's letter, for as soon as she received it, she ran upstairs to her mother's room and said, "Mother dear, at last I have a letter from Bennie, but lie down, mother dear and I will read it."

"Dear Hannah—

It is with deep regret that I now write to say, my father passed away a month ago, for which I was called home. Shortly after I came home we sent word to Philadelphia and Aunt Sarah, Uncle Joe, Millie and Amelia's family came. And while my dear mother holds up firmly under the stress, yet I notice her failing health and I sympathize with her in this hour of sorrow and bereavement."

"Now Hannah dear, I want to tell you I am a changed man entirely, I realize I have made many mistakes in the past, but I stand ready to right any and all wrongs committed. Heretofore I have sown my seed on barren ground, but from now on I shall sow on fertile ground, from which it shall bear fruit.

While Aunt Sarah was here for the funeral she told me you had written to me while I was located

at Topeka, Kansas, and I knew if you did, then it must have been returned to you, as I did not receive it.

“Now did I not tell you, mother dear, that Bennie would have written, had he gotten my letter.” She could say no more—she was full—Oh, my love—My Bennie.

“Well, Hannah dear, go on and finish the rest of the letter.” I am full, I am weeping for joy. Hannah kissed her mother. “Yes, my dear, I had faith always that Bennie would write soon.”

Hannah continued—I never received it dear, for had it reached me, I would have been back long ago dear, for I was yearning for my Hannah—My love. I left on the spur of the moment, without any explanation, this I have regretted many times.

Aunt Sarah tried to persuade me to come to see you, but I would not listen to her loving advice, but now, Hannah dear, I want to make amends for what I have done. Give my best love to your dear Mother and I hope she is improving. I hope you can forgive me and write soon, My Love.—Lovingly—Bennie.

Mother Sharp was the first to speak. She said, “How like Bennie, true to his loving self, yes that is dear Bennie, made all over again. If I had a son, I could not love him any more than I do Bennie. But I know you will let me share my love with you for Bennie, won’t you, Hannah dear?”

“Oh yes, mother” said Hannah as she stooped to kiss her. Mother and daughter were happy, and when Hannah’s Father came home that night, Hannah met him as soon as he opened the door and embraced him—kissing him over and over again in her joy. Her father was at a loss to know why all this caressing, until Hannah gave him Bennie’s letter to read.

SUCH IS LOVE.

“Man knows not love—such as woman feels,
In him it is a vast devouring flame—
Resistless fed—in its own strength consumed.
In woman’s heart it enters step by step,
Concealed, disowned, until its gentler ray
Breathes forth a Light, illumining the world.
Man loves not for repose; he woos the flower,
To wear it as a victor’s trophied crown;
Whilst woman, when she glories in her love,
More like the dove, in noiseless constancy,
Watches the nest of her affection till
’Tis shed upon the tomb of Him she Loves.”

Hannah’s Father having read the letter said,
“Well my dear Hannah, my thoughts of Bennie are true, for I know from seeing Bennie, that he is not the sort of man who would tamper with a woman’s love. I have had faith in him from the very first time I met him. He surely does not spare himself, and thoroughly regrets the hasty going away.”

“Yes, father dear, he does. I loved him always, and he is coming to Philadelphia, back to his old home,” said Hannah.

“Hannah dear, you must send Bennie and his mother a letter of condolence, in this, their hour of bereavement.” “Yes, I will write at once, I can not wait another day to greet Bennie and welcome him back, for my soul yearns to see him.”

Bennie had received a short note from Aunt Sarah saying, “We have received your letter, Bennie and while we would like to have your mother come and live with us, yet we feel that she would not like to leave Teresa and the children. Your uncle says come as soon as you can, and there will be plenty of work for you Bennie, and bring Clyde with you.”

“I am writing this in a hurry for we want you to know how things are. Give our love to your mother and all the rest not forgetting yourself, Bennie.—As ever—In haste”—Aunt Sarah.

Now that matter was settled and he and Clyde

would work in Philadelphia. The day of departure had arrived. Arthur had the things hauled to freight depot and loaded on a car bound for New York. Trunks and bags all ready packed, the family are ready to leave. Arthur had wired that he would leave that day and would go straight through. He would have liked to stop over a few days in Philadelphia, but his work would not permit, so it was decided that the Thomas family and Mother Gregory and Marie would go straight through but Bennie and Clyde would leave them at Philadelphia.

In planning this move, Arthur intended to drive through with the family, but the evening before they left he met one of his intimate friends, Jack Rose, who persuaded Arthur to sell his car. Arthur said, "It is a good one, what will you give me for it?"

Twelve hundred and forty dollars in cash, replied Jack. "All right, Jack, it's yours, said Arthur, "I'll get another Buick when I get to New York.

The car being disposed of, Arthur gets the tickets for New York, and we find them all ready to leave on the early afternoon train. As they waited at the station, Mother Gregory said, "Well, I have spent many pleasant days in Staunton, but I feel I shall never come back this way again, but I take with me a sad remembrance of One I loved who has gone to Spirit Life, but I feel his presence ever near me, when I am alone. I seem to hear his voice calling me, and often I answer, I am coming Johnny, because I know he hears me, yes indeed. I love him still, and always will, and soon I shall be with him."

Mother dear," said Teresa, "You must not talk about leaving us, you have many years to spend with us yet, think of us, who love you."

"Yes Teresa dear, I know Arthur and you and my Grandchildren all love me, and I love you all in return"—Such is a Mothers Love.

LOVE OF MOTHER

"There are soft words murmured by dear dear lips,
Far richer than any other,
But the sweetest word that ear hath heard,
Is the blessed name of Mother.

Magical word may it never die,
From the lips that love to speak it,
Nor melt away from the trusty hearts;
That ever would break to keep it.

Was there ever a name that lived like this,
Will there ever be such another?
The angels have reared in heaven a shrine
To the holy name of Mother."

Bennie did not receive a letter from Hannah, but had he stayed at Staunton till evening, he would have received it, for the letter came after he had left Staunton. Bennie had been to the post office and told them to forward his to Philadelphia, giving them the address of his aunt Sarah's residence.

Arthur Thomas did not expect to leave Staunton so quickly, but his employers had made an urgent request for his immediate presence in New York. Therefore he had deemed it wise to leave at once, that was the reason for this sudden departure.

Soon they were in Philadelphia, and all the folks were there to meet them, on their way to New York, as Arthur had wired that they expected to arrive early the following morning. Aunt Sarah—Millie.—Amelia and her husband had come over from New Jersey, and were all at the station when the train pulled in at 24th and Chestnut Street, but Uncle Joe was missing as he had a difficult piece of work to do, and could not leave it.

They only had sufficient time to exchange greetings, as the train stopped only ten minutes to take on passengers and baggage for New York. All present sympathized with that dear soul Mother Gregory, in her bereavement, and as the train was pulling out for New York, Mother Gregory said: to her

sister Sarah, "Come up to New York, to see us, and Bennie, you come as soon as you can, and bring Hannah, for I am longing to see that dear little soul."

"I will Mother, said Bennie, and you can expect us, for we shall come." It was true they would go to New York, but there was to be an event which was to take place, that would change Bennie's life.

But We Shall See.

Aunt Sarah, Millie, Bennie and Clyde now boarded a street car and were soon home, Amelia and her husband did not go with them to Aunt Sarah's, but took a car to the ferry which would take them across to New Jersey and home.

Bennie met several of his old friends who were glad to see him back in Philadelphia again, and said to them, "Yes, I am glad to get back to my old home and have learned a lesson by my experience." "Well, suppose we will see you to-night at the old place?" "No said Bennie, I've quit drinking from now on, and I have turned over a new leaf in my life's history,—so henceforth I shall travel a different path, never-the-less, I shall send you my good thoughts to you at all times."

They gave Bennie the Ah, Ah, and went on their way.

Late in the afternoon Bennie is still at home talking of the future—of what he was going to do, when the door bell rang, Aunt Sarah went to the door, and the mail man handed her a letter, and said: "Bennie must be on his way back, as this is a letter for him," "Oh yes, said Aunt Sarah he is here already he came on the early train from Washington D. C. Yes, he was called home by the sudden death of his father." "Then I suppose he will stay awhile?" "Yes I think he will stay with us now."

Bennie was to get a surprise when he opened Hannah's letter as——

We Shall See,

When Bennie received the letter, he opened it

smiling, and Aunt Sarah was still standing to hear the glad news, for she was overjoyed to think that these two loving souls were brought together again. Bennie started to read his letter which ran:

“Dear Bennie,

How glad I was to receive your letter, and overjoyed to think you were back in Philadelphia again, but how I sympathize with you in your bereavement in the loss of your dear father, whom I never had the pleasure of meeting which I deeply regret. When I received your letter dear, I read it to Mother, and she was overpowered at the thought of your coming home again, then she dictated a letter for me, to you, sending her loving thoughts with mine,—but this letter was never sent to you, for that evening she took a relapse, and at two A. M. the following morning, she passed away quietly, and as she kissed me good-bye, her parting words were: Give my love to Bennie, Hannah dear.”

I said I would, and now Bennie there are only Father and I left, and I want to see you so badly dear, for I deeply regret the words I said to you when we parted at Chester Station, which made you leave me. But I will explain dear, I know it was my fault, but I will make amends dear. Come as soon as you can dear, if only for a few hours, father and I will always be glad to see you, and to have you with us. Give my best love to your dear Aunt Sarah, whom I love, for her kindness to me, and how I have longed and yearned to be near you dear, and how I would have loved for you to have seen my dear Mother again, before she passed away.”

“But she is not gone forever, her spirit will ever be near us and guide us along life’s journey. Throwing her Light upon us to show us the way we should go, dear, yes dear, you and I, for I am not going to let my Bennie leave me again. Oh no dear.”

“Well, now Bennie come as soon as you can.

Father sends his love as always, and I remember when I got your letter before Mother passed away, he replied, "Yes, I knew Bennie would write, and I still have faith in him, for I am not deceived, neither is Bennie a man that would deceive a woman." So now I will close my letter to you dear, hoping you are well, and coming soon.

As ever Lovingly, Hannah."

When Bennie had finished reading Hannah's letter, he turned to his Aunt Sarah and said, "Auntie dear, Hannah's Mother has passed away, is dead, that dear soul whom I loved as a mother, and I did not get a chance to speak to her. Read this letter, while I am away, for I am going to send a wire to Hannah, that I will be in Chester on the next train leaving here."

Bennie was away—gone to the telegraph office. Arriving there, he sent the following message: "Will leave here for Chester on next train"—Bennie.

This done, he hurried home, packed his bag, and kissing his aunt, said, "I may be gone three or four days, auntie, Bennie was gone—to town, to the station. On arriving he found he had to wait an hour for his train, and this hour seemed an age to him as he was anxious to get to Chester—, to one whom he loved—he was needed, and he did not want to lose any time getting there.

As he waited he thought to himself, had I known, even when I left Staunton, Va. "I could have been there in time to have seen Hannah's mother before she passed away. But now she has gone and I shall never see her loving face again."

When the train came in, Bennie got on board, and was on his way to Chester and his love. Hannah had received Bennie's wire, and she called up to inquire when the next train was due from Philadelphia. She was told seven-thirty. She thanked the agent for the information.

Mr. Sharp was in the sitting-room, reading, when

Hannah went in with the wire, saying, "Father dear, here is a wire from Bennie, and I have just called to find out when his train will arrive. So, as it gets in about seven-thirty, I will have to hurry and dress if I am to meet Bennie when he arrives, I am so anxious to see him, Father, that I know you will excuse me."

"All right dear, that is the best news I've had for a long time," said he, for he was longing to see Bennie, too, almost as much as Hannah was, but of course he realized that their love for Bennie were entirely different. He told Hannah that he loved Bennie as he would have loved a son, had he had the pleasure of having one but that her love was of a different nature—a soul love, as a mate seeking a mate.

"Yes, Father, I understand, that is entirely true, for my soul does yearn for him. But I must hurry as I do not want to be tardy." "All right, dear, do not let me detain you."

Hannah hastened to her room, thinking of Bennie whom she loved, who was on his way to her.—this was her constant thought—her Bennie. In a few minutes, she came down stairs, dressed in mourning and lifting her short veil she said, "Father, Bennie will not know me, I must make myself known as soon as I spy him, for he will not recognize me."

"Don't be alarmed dear, said her father, Love will find a way to know you." Hannah was on her way to the station, and had hardly arrived when she heard the train blowing its whistle for Chester, so she hurried, and was just in time to see the train stop.

Glancing around she spied Bennie alighting from the day coach, she ran up to him and said, "Bennie, and raising her veil, she kissed him, and started to cry, and said, Oh, Bennie dear, how glad I am to see you, how I have longed and yearned for this moment, dear, never mind Hannah dear said Bennie,

don't cry now, that's a dear let us go home to father, for I have a long story to tell, and when I have told it, I shall have relieved myself of a heavy burden."

Hannah was happy now, as she walked arm in arm with One she loved,—Her Bennie.

They were soon home, and Mr. Sharp greeted Bennie like a son, as he said, "How glad I am to see you my boy, said Mr. Sharp, and how I have longed to see you, don't you know Bennie that Hannah has been in a restless condition ever since you went away, her dear Mother who is now in the Spirit, and I, tried to console her, but to no avail, and when she got your letter, she was all smiles as she kissed me over and over again. I never saw her so happy."

Hannah laughed. "Yes, I am telling Bennie all I know dear," he said to his daughter. "I don't care what you tell Bennie about me, for it is true, it is my soul love for Bennie."

"Yes, Hannah dear," said Bennie, that you love me truly is very plain to me, for I realize it more and more, and when I think of my leaving you, without coming to see you and giving you an opportunity to explain, I am sure I do not know."

"Do not talk of that now, Bennie, let it be of the past," said Hannah. "Well, Hannah dear, I regret that I acted as I did, but if it is your desire to have the subject dropped, why, that is alright, dear," said Bennie.

Hannah's Father spoke up and said, "I think you two are taking the right stand, forgive and forget and lead a new and better life, a life of understanding."

Hannah hurried to the kitchen and prepared a lunch for Bennie, and in a little while she called him to come and get a bite to eat, saying, "I know you did not have any supper dear, and you will feel refreshed after eating a lunch."

"How thoughtful, Hannah dear," said Bennie, for I did not think of anything but to get to you, as fast as possible, after I got your letter.

Bennie sat down and enjoyed the meal set before him, and naturally, the conversation turned to the passing away of Mrs. Sharp. "Yes, Bennie dear," said she, "Many times Mother inquired for you, always anxious to know if I had heard, dear, and when I would say no, she would ever assure me that you would write soon, telling me she knew you still loved me, dear."

"When your Aunt Sarah received a letter from Topeka, Kansas, she wrote to me giving me your address. When I received her letter, I ran upstairs to my mother with the good news. I was so happy and joyous that I kissed her over and over again. She smiled and was so pleased to see me happy, dear."

"Sweetheart, you'd gone, and I wandered on,
Wondering where you could be, others may say that
you'd gone to stay,
But I knew you'd come back to me.
I couldn't believe that you would deceive,
Whatever else you might do, if one day, somehow, you
did break your vow,
I never did believe it was you, dear."

"Do you know, Bennie dear, that when I retire and lay thinking of my dear mother, I can feel her very presence near me, and sometimes a voice seems to say, very plainly to me, "Be patient and all will be well, dear." This is A voice of the Silence, Bennie."

"I have mentioned this to Father, and he says he knows it is true, for he knows of such cases, that where a deep love exists, or a soul union, or a parent wanting to protect a wayward child, the parent on passing into spirit life, would naturally manifest his presence, by making his influence felt about the loved ones. The loving attractiveness for their children, would bind them very close together, then it would be hard and cruel to separate them, and the Spirit of the Departed would be ever

near them, to guide, guard and protect them in their every day life."

"Before Mother was bedfast we used to attend the Old Episcopalian Church down the Avenue, and one evening I was very much impressed with a selection which the choir sang. Days afterward I heard Mother singing it as she went about the house and quite often she would hum it to herself."

"With tearful eyes I look around;
Life seems a dark and stormy sea;
Yet mid the gloom, I hear a sound,
A heavenly whisper, "Come to Me."

It tells me of a place of rest;
It tells me where my Soul may flee;
O, to the weary, faint, opprest,
How sweet the bidding, "Come to Me."

Come, for all else must fail and die.
Earth is no resting place for Thee;
To heaven direct thy weeping eye,
I am thy portion. "Come to Me."

O, voice of Mercy; voice of Love!
In conflict, grief and agony
Support me, cheer me from above,
And gently whisper. "Come to Me."

"Now since mother has entered the Spirit realms, I feel her close to me. (Hannah could not go on, for the tears were flowing down her cheeks), "Do you know Bennie dear, that I ask my mother's advice now, just as I did when she was here in body. She impresses me what to do, and I feel her influence as I go about the house as she guides my footsteps from day to day, leading me along the path of duty and right."

"Bennie, as you know my mother was a devout Christian woman, and was esteemed by all this community, who loved her and love her still. "Yes, Hannah dear," said Bennie, I know how you all loved her, and I did too, and I know she loved me

as though I were her own son, and that is the reason for my regrets, that I could not be with her in her parting moments, for how I would have loved to be near her."

"And Hannah dear, that reminds me that when I was in Oklahoma, I used to think about my dear mother, so much, and wish to be near her, to stay with her—how I yearned to be home again. One Sunday afternoon, time seemed to drag and I was attracted to some books on a shelf in the sitting room, and in going over them I came across a book of poems, and glancing over them I was attracted to a little poem by George Bancroft Griffith, which appealed to my inner self, and I decided, then and there what I was going to do."

"If you have a gray haired Mother,
In the old home far away,
Sit down and write a letter
You've put off from day to day.
Don't wait until her weary steps
Reach Heaven's pearly gate,
But show her that you think of her,
Before it is too late."

"Hannah, dear, I wrote to my dear mother and in about a week, I received a letter which had been forwarded from Topeka, Kansas, a letter from my mother, how I treasured it. Two days later, I got the wire calling me home at once as my Father was dangerously ill. At this time I was working in the mines at McAlester, Oklahoma, where I met and made some steadfast friends."

"One especially, an elderly man who was Mine Clerk, was attracted to me and during my short stay, we were close friends. I lost no time in starting for home for this dear old soul gave me every assistance possible, even offering to furnish me with funds if I needed them, but I thanked him kindly, and as he bid me farewell at the train, his parting words were, "Bennie, my boy, your place is home with your Mother—She needs you."

"And I may never meet him again during this earthly life dear, but I am going to sit down some evening when I get started to work, and write him a long letter, thanking him again for his kindness and courtesy extended to me." "Yes, Bennie dear, a "Friend when in need is a friend indeed."

It was getting late now, or rather early, as it was now after one A. M. Hannah's Father had quietly gone to bed, and Bennie suggested they retire, "So, Bennie you can go to Mother's room, and you can rest there under her Loving Guidance." Some people would not like the idea of sleeping in a room that had been occupied by a corpse, only a short time before, but it made no difference to Bennie, for he would rather be in that room, than any other in the house.

The Sharp family arose early, (Father and daughter) as Hannah's father was to go to work, and he said to Hannah, "Don't waken Bennie yet, as he will be tired, so let him rest Hannah dear." Bennie did not hear Mr. Sharp go to work, but about 9 A. M. he heard Hannah cleaning up around the house, so he got up, dressed and washed, and went downstairs where he met Hannah in the kitchen getting breakfast ready. She gave him a loving smile, and he kissed her, and said, "Good morning dear."

"And how did you rest Bennie? "O, I was awake for about half an hour, I seemed to feel the Spirit of your dear mother by my bedside, and I could almost feel her warm breathe, as I felt a kiss on my cheek, as if it was her loving self. I talked to her, like I would talk to you, and finally I went to sleep, and I did not awaken until I heard you in the kitchen this morning, and then I could have kicked myself for laying in bed so long, and you downstairs all alone, and I wanting to be near you."

Hannah kissed him again,——Such is Love.

Hannah and Bennie eat breakfast together, they talked about Aunt Sarah, and Bennie related to her how the family were getting along,—about Teresa

and her husband in New York,—how Bennie's Mother, loved to be with them, and her grand-children.

“And now Hannah dear, while we are alone, I want to ask you are you going to keep your promise, even if I did break mine dear?”

Hannah kissed him and said, “Yes, Bennie, I shall keep my promise to marry you dear, for it is my Mother's dearest wish that I marry you dear, and father says, he loves you as a father loves his only son, so we are a loving family, dear.” “Yes, said Bennie, “I realize your father's attachment to me, and I shall not betray the confidence he has placed in me.”

“And Hannah dear, I have given up my old associates, and become a new man entirely,—re-born again,——regenerated,—so I can be a fit person to become a husband for my love,——My Hannah.”

“I promised my dear Mother when we parted at Philadelphia, when she was on her way to New York to see her, so dear, after we are married we will take our honey-moon trip, making New York our destination, if you say the word.”

“Yes, Bennie dear, it will be agreeable to me, but in the meantime we will see what arrangements we can make about my father.”

CHAPTER XX

TWO LOVING SOULS ARE MADE ONE. HANNAH MEETS BENNIE'S MOTHER.

Bennie saw Mr. Sharp coming up the street, and told Hannah, who was in the kitchen, so she ran out and met her father who was coming in the gate, and kissed him, and that good soul put his arm around her waist, and came into the house, where Bennie was waiting.

"Well Bennie, said Mr. Sharp, I suppose you two have things all fixed up I suppose, and a truer word was never spoken, for they had everything arranged for you have the house all to ourselves today."

"Well yes," said Bennie, "We have the house all to ourselves, and we have fixed things up as you say, and have put our minds and thoughts as to when we shall get married, but before deciding finally Hannah and I thought best to ask you to make the arrangements, and as to where we are to make our home, but we will talk about this after supper."

"Oh, said Mr. Sharp, then my little girl is going to leave me? well I expected that, and I shall grant any request Hannah might make, for I am sure Bennie, she is safe in your hands." "Thank you Mr. Sharp said Bennie, for your faith in trusting your daughter in my care, and I hope I may not have occasion to betray your trust in me, and if I had listened to my **Mother's Guiding Voice**, Hannah and I would have been married ere this, and living a happy life."

Hannah called supper, and her father and Bennie obeyed the call. Seated at the table were three loving souls, after supper was over, Mr. Sharp said, "Now you young folks, let me hear what arrangements you have made between you." "Well, father

dear, said Hannah, we agreed to get married quietly at the rectory of the Episcopal church, because Mother and I were both members, and then go to New York to see the Thomas family, and Bennie's Mother, who I am dearly longing to see, and spend our honey-moon with them, but Bennie thought, that he would rather delay the visit, and marriage, to show due respect to my dear Mother, whose Spirit is ever near us." "Bennie I certainly appreciate your respect for Hannah's Mother, said Mr. Sharp, but I think by the time you get things arranged for your wedding day, I see no reason why the ceremony should not take place."

"Now father dear, we have decided to leave the date entirely in your hands, said Hannah, and another thing while I am thinking about it, father dear, Bennie wants you to come and live with us in Philadelphia." "Now listen Hannah dear, said her father, I do not want to intrude on you young folks by living with you." "But Bennie insists that you come, said Hannah. "Yes, said Bennie I would be pleased to have you make your home with us, and I am sure you would rather go with us." "Yes, Bennie, my boy, I would rather go with you and Hannah."

"Well, then, said Bennie, it is settled."

"And now about the date of your wedding, said Mr. Sharp, would you mind, and would you be satisfied if I arranged it to take place in three months from to date?" Both Hannah and Bennie spoke in unison,— "The date is satisfactory to us." So we find father—daughter and Bennie in harmony, one with another.

"And now said Bennie, I want to spend another day with Hannah, and you Mr. Sharp, then to-morrow I want to leave on the evening train for Philadelphia, for I have not seen uncle Joe, yet, since I got back from Staunton, Va."

"Well, Well," said Mr. Sharp.

"You know Mr. Sharp, as soon as I received Han-

nah's letter, I came at once, for Hannah was my first thought." Hannah gave Bennie a pleasant smile, which meant all to him.

The next day was spent pleasantly, and after supper, Bennie and Hannah went for a stroll through the outskirts of town, but did not stay long as Bennie was to leave on the next train for Philadelphia. They were soon home, and found Mr. Sharp in the sitting room, reading the evening paper, and looking up from the paper as Bennie and Hannah came in said:—"Well, Bennie, you will soon be leaving us, so the next thing is,—when shall we have the pleasure of seeing you again?" "Every week end," said Bennie.

"That's fine," said Mr. Sharp, and Hannah clapped her hands in glee, for that dear soul was happy in the thought that Bennie was coming often to see her, and soon,—very soon, they would be man and wife.

"Well, Hannah dear," said Bennie, "we had better get ready to go to the train." "Yes," said Hannah, "we don't want to be late, and miss the train."

"I'll go too, said Mr. Sharp, if you will let me, and then I can see Hannah home safe." Soon they were on the way to the station, and had barely arrived there, for no sooner had Bennie purchased his ticket, than the train pulled in.

Bennie shaking the hand of Mr. Sharp, bid him good-bye said, "I will see you again soon,—then taking Hannah's hand, he said, "Just for a short time dear, I'll soon be back to you and father, I shall always think of you, and the happy moments we are to spend together in our future life." And as he kissed her, they were calling all aboard, and Bennie responded, jumping aboard,—he waved a loving adieu, to his love, and her father, and as the train pulled out, these two loving souls wended their way towards home.

Bennie was soon in Philadelphia, and by the time he got to his aunt Sarah's, they had all retired.

Early the next morning he was awakened from his slumber, by his Uncle Joe, and in his big-hearted and good-natured way said, to Bennie, "Say Bennie, wake up,—I want to see you,—You don't want to run off again, and leave me, before I get a chance to see you,"—Bennie sat up in bed and said,—“Uncle you will excuse me, I know, for the abrupt departure, but as you know,—when I got Hannah's letter,—and knew of her bereavement in the loss of her dear Mother, I hastened to Chester, Pa., to be near her.”

“That was all right Bennie, it was your love and duty to her, in her hour of trials, but I only wanted to see you Bennie, for I am deeply interested in you, and have always been, but as I said before, I am very much interested in you, because I see a great future before you, but Bennie, I must be going, but will see you this evening, and tomorrow you can go to work, or, as soon as you wish,” And with this Uncle Joe was gone downstairs,—and to work.

Bennie thought of the words that his uncle had just said,—he got up and dressed, and went downstairs, and into the kitchen where his aunt Sarah was, who greeted him with a smile, and said, “Your Uncle is elated to see you back in Philadelphia, Bennie, for he has been lost without you.”

“Yes auntie, I was just thinking how kind you and uncle Joe have been to me, and our family, but I hope some day, I will be able to repay you in full, but in the meantime, I pray to the Infinite Spirit to guide you into all Truth, To bless you, and to bestow upon you all you need as necessities of life, and give you Peace, with Unity and Concord.”

His aunt Sarah, came close to him and kissed him, and said, “Thank you Bennie dear, for your supplication in our behalf, and may God ever enlighten you, and guide you along the Heavenly Way, where will grasp the Wisdom, as set before us for our learning.

“And now Bennie dear I am anxious to know

how you found Hannah.” “Oh, Auntie dear, Hannah and her father were glad to see me, and Mr. Sharp took me into his confidence, like a father to a son,—they are all alone now, for they certainly miss that dear loving Soul, who while on this earth plane was their Guide and Counsellor, and now her Spirit hovers near, to guide them still, and who sends them loving thoughts, and auntie dear, Hannah and I are to be married by mutual agreement in three months, as Hannah said, it was her mother’s wish, and the marriage ceremony will be solemnized in the Protestant Episcopal rectory at Chester, Pa., because Mrs. Sharp and Hannah were members of that church.”

“Well, well, Bennie, that is the grandest news I have heard for a long time, and how your dear Mother will be elated and overjoyed at the news, have you sent her word, Bennie?” “No auntie, I have not, but I am going to send her the good news after breakfast.”

“Yes, here I am standing, excited over the good news, and forgetting your breakfast.” “No hurry auntie dear, don’t let me disturb you in the least.”

Aunt Sarah soon had Bennie’s breakfast on the table, and Bennie sat down, and so did his aunt Sarah, for she was anxious to hear the news. “Yes Auntie after Hannah and I are married, we are going to spend our honey-moon with Arthur,—Teresa,—and Mother in New York, as I know they are longing to see Hannah. Then when we come back, we are to live in Philadelphia, near you, and Mr. Sharp will also make his home with us.”

Auntie interrupted Bennie, and said,—“O God, how grand are the works of Thy Hands, what a grand thought Thou hast given our Bennie, and led him unto Thyself.”

“Yes, Auntie, I can say truthful, that it was **My Mother’s Guiding Voice**, that has brought about such results, and who has led me in to doing what is my duty to my family and God, and I shall pray

that I be so guided, and led into the paths of duty, and right.

Yes, Auntie, I am a changed man, re-born,—re-generated, for there is a new spirit within me, for I have cast aside the old, and taken upon the new, the spiritual, and the good, and by God's help, I mean to make amends for all wrongs done in the past."

Breakfast being over, both got up from the table, when his aunt Sarah said to him, "Bennie dear, it does my heart good, to see and hear you express yourself in this way, and I can imagine how glad your dear mother will be when she hears the news." "And now auntie I want to go out and get some things ready, so I can be on hand, to go to work to-morrow morning, but before I go out, I want to write a letter to my dear mother, and tell her about my visit to Hannah's home, and also when our marriage takes place, then I can mail the letter while I am in the city."

"Yes Bennie, said his aunt, send her word at once, for it has been the **One** desire of her life,—to see you and Hannah married, and settled down, for it will make her happy."

Bennie went to his room,—to be alone,—to write to one he dearly loved,—his Mother, and having settled down on a chair, and with writing material, he commenced to write the loving news that were to be a God-send to the recipient—his Mother, which read:—

Dear Mother,

Having now, again been installed with the old firm I worked for before I went away,—Clyde and myself are under the loving care of Aunt Sarah and Uncle Joe, who by their untiring efforts, are ever doing something for us to make us feel at home, but Clyde is not working yet, but we can (as soon as we deem it advisable) secure a position for him most any day. I received a letter from Hannah

soon after I arrived in Philadelphia, which had been forwarded to me from Staunton, Va., with the sad news, of the sudden death of Hannah's Mother.

This is why I did not write you sooner, Mother dear, for as soon as I received Hannah's letter, I left on the next train leaving Philadelphia, for Chester, Pa., to be with Hannah, for I love her,—as I have always loved her, and now I want to say, I had a very pleasant visit of four days with Mr. Sharp and Hannah, and while there, Hannah and I arranged to be married in three months, at the Episcopal Rectory, at Chester, Pa.,—As it was Mrs. Sharp's dearest wish that we should be married at once.

I did not get there before Hannah's Mother passed away, but she gave a message to Hannah, that I shall always remember, and as I sit down at times, I feel her presence ever near me, telling me of her Love for Hannah and myself, and I realize that it is truth.

And now Mother dear, I have turned over a new leaf in my life's history for I am a changed man,—the man you wanted me to be many years ago, and if I had listened to **Your Guiding Voice**, I should have been a better type of man,—but finally I have realized, I must change,—and I did,—and by your help,—your prayers and by the influence of your loving Spirit, who is ever near me, I shall build, and set up a home for my love,—My Hannah, then when our trials and labor on this earth are ended, we shall wend our way together to the mansions of the blest, prepared for those seeking rest.

Now Mother dear, as soon as we are married, we are coming to New York, to spend our honeymoon, with Arthur, Teresa and you, Mother dear, as Hannah is so anxious to meet you, and I know you will love her.

Aunt Sarah,—Uncle Joe, and the family are quite well, Millie is doing fine, and you must not be

surprised if you hear of another wedding any time now.

Clyde, is having the time of his life, as his cousins are taking him around, and showing him the sights, and making many acquaintances.

Give my love to Arthur,—Teresa,—and the children, and my fondest love to Marie, whom I adore, and suppose she likes New York, and tell them all we will see them soon. And now Mother dear, I will close with my best love to all.

Your Loving Son,
Bennie.

Having written his letter, Bennie said to his aunt, "I am going to town auntie, to buy some working clothes, and will mail Mother's letter while I am out,"—so saying he put on his coat, and was gone.

He was not very long away.—he secured what necessary articles he wanted, and was soon home again. Now that he had broken away from his old associates, he had no one to detain him.

Soon Uncle Joe came in from work, who greeted Bennie, as a prodigal son, for he was such, and his uncle Joe would do anything for him within reason, and Bennie knew it.

"Well Uncle, said Bennie, I have been out buying some working clothes so now I am ready to start to work." "Al-right, Bennie my Boy, said his uncle, the work is ready for you, and while in conversation with the Superintendent Mr. Thompson, this morning, I mentioned that you were back in Philadelphia, and I thought he was gone crazy."

"Why?" said Bennie.

"Because he jumped up from his desk, and grabbed me by the shoulder, and said, that is good news, Joe, and we need Bennie on a big job that we secured only a few days ago,—and he said,—"Say Joe, do you think he will stick?" "Yes Sir," I said, "I am sure of it, for he is a changed man now,

entirely, for he has cut out the drinking business, and stays at home, and another thing, I said to him, he is soon to be married to the dearest little girl, and they are going to make their home in Philadelphia."

"So, Bennie my Boy, you can start to work in the yard on design work, to-morrow morning, and I hope I did not intrude, when I told Mr. Thompson, that you are about to get married." "No indeed, Uncle," said Bennie.

That evening was spent in telling past events about the work in Staunton, Va., and the work in Philadelphia. Next morning Uncle Joe and Bennie were off to work and when Bennie arrived at the yards he was welcomed by some of the men, but more so by his Superintendent. Soon he was at work, cutting designs, and as he worked, he thought of the future as Hannah as his wife. This inspired him on and as the days go by we find Bennie making rapid progress in his work for he was deeply interested.

WE SHALL SEE.

When Mother Gregory got Bennie's letter, she opened it and began reading it, calling her daughter Teresa and said, "read the glad news, Teresa dear" she handed her the letter. "Now I shall be happy, Teresa dear, for I have longed to see Bennie marry and settle down, and for many years I have prayed to God to help me to bring about a change in his life, and now that it has come,—and my prayers have been answered, I am ready to resign."

Teresa having read the letter, said to her Mother, "Yes Mother dear I know you have been looking forward to this event in Bennie's life for many years, now it has arrived so you can be happy and rest in peace with us,—knowing that Hannah and Bennie are happy in each others love. So they are going to live in Philadelphia, that will be nice, as they will be near Aunt Sarah. And, Mother

dear, Bennie says, they are coming up to New York to spend their honey-moon."

"Yes, Teresa dear, said her Mother, I am longing to see that dear little soul who is making a man of my boy,—may the Infinite Spirit Bless them and Guide their footsteps thro' life. I have prayed for the Infinite Spirit to Guide your brother and make him see his errors. Also that he be impressed to do what is right, and now that my prayers are answered, it is a gratification to me,—that all is well, and that he realizes I have been sending my loving thoughts to him at all times. Knowing that he is heeding My Guiding Voice, is a comfort to my Soul."

As time rolls on, Bennie is working steadily, very much interested in his work. Uncle Joe having charge of the construction of a library building on Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, with Bennie as his assistant Foreman, Clyde is also employed as Time Keeper being well adapted for this work.

Things are progressing far better; and as Mother Gregory has often said to her daughter, "I feel gratified to hear the good news, that Bennie and Clyde are doing well. I shall continue to send them my loving thoughts, and influence my boy to heed My Guiding Voice, and he will rise to prominence and become a model man as I have pictured him to be all my life. And when I depart this earth,—My Spirit will ever hover near him and Guide him thro' life."

"Yes Mother dear, said her daughter, you have always been kind and generous to Bennie, and the kindness you have bestowed upon him,—you will reap for many blessings will be showered upon you. For He that knoweth and doeth all things well, knows our innermost thoughts. A record is kept of it, for it is Truth, That as you sow,—so you reap." Therefore, I make no hesitation in saying that you will mingle with high Exalted Souls in the mansions of the Blest, and with that assurance,

Mother dear, be at peace and be happy in that thought—That all is well, and every one is getting along nicely, and that we all love you.”

“Yes, Teresa dear, I realize all you say is true, and I am happy in the thought.” And as the days go by,—Bennie visits his love at her home, weekly, and as the time for the wedding is drawing close at hand, Hannah is as busy (as a bee gathering honey from the flowers) getting ready.

After one of these week end visits at Chester Bennie informed his Uncle Joe that he wished to be off the following week. “So, Uncle, if there is any special work that you think may come up while I am away, I think it would be advisable to get the matter this week together, and perhaps I may be of some assistance in overcoming it.” “Ha, Ha, so I suppose the looked for event is coming off.”

“Well, Bennie, I do not know, but I might ask you to bring a copy of the plans home to-night and we can go over the details and thus see if there is anything that may arise while you are away. We can readily see where we will reach to with the present force of men.” “I will do that,” said Bennie.

That night Bennie and his Uncle were busy getting things in shape for Bennie’s vacation, as Bennie did not want his uncle to have any trouble while he was away. Oh no, he had too much interest in his Uncle Joe—His employers, for had he not a foot-hold, a good start along life’s stormy sea? And has battled the waves of circumstances, he realized he was winning,—and would be victor at any cost,—He must, for Hannah’s sake.

Plans were looked over, and everything set right. On the following Saturday evening as Bennie was leaving for Chester, his Aunt Sarah said to him, “We shall all be on hand for the wedding Monday morning, Bennie.” Arthur wired that it would be impossible for him to leave at this time, but that Mother and Marie would

arrive in Philadelphia late Saturday night, and would stay here. We shall meet Amelia's family at the station and so, Bennie dear, we will all be in Chester in time for the ceremony."

"All right, auntie dear, how happy Hannah will be, to have you all in her home, to have you meet her dear father whom she loves and idolizes."

That night Millie and her cousin Joe were at the station to meet Mother Gregory and Marie as they landed. How glad Millie was to see her mother and sister—All were happy in the thought that they were soon to see Bennie take upon himself the responsibility of a home. Soon they were on board a car bound for West Philadelphia and Aunt Sarah's home. Here these two loving souls were given a hearty welcome, for Aunt Sarah was so glad to see her dear sister. She said, "Sister dear, I know you are happy, knowing that your fondest desire is to be granted in a few hours Hannah and Bennie are to be united at last."

"Yes, sister dear, I am happy, because my boy is happy, and I am so anxious to see that loving soul, who is to be my boy's wife,—who has made him happy." They were all happy, to see, and be near Marie, who was now a fine looking young lady, but the smallest of the family, but she was a loving soul, and could always be in harmony with anyone whom she came in contact with.

Supper was over, and the evening was spent quietly, and Aunt Sarah said to her husband,—“Joe, are you going over to Chester, Monday?”

“Yes, indeed I am, for I have arranged to be away till 1 P. M., so that gives me a chance to be at the wedding, but I must leave on the next train after the ceremony is over, and I can go direct to the job from the station. Yes, Sarah, he said to his wife, I promised myself that should Bennie get married, I would make every endeavor to be there.—So I am going to be there, and another thing, while I am thinking about it, I did not buy any present,

but I have a check here in my pocket for \$50.00 which I am giving them as my gift to them, which is really as much as I can afford,—And here is another check for \$100.00 from the Company with their best wishes, to him and his bride, and which I am to give them before leaving Chester.”

It was quite a surprise to his wife to hear her husband talk about presents, for she, like all the others, had bought presents for Hannah and Bennie but she had not mentioned this to her husband, as yet.

But never-the-less, she said to him,—“How thoughtful of you Joe,—and how generous you and the Company are, which tends to show how his services are appreciated.”

“Yes, said Uncle Joe we do appreciate his services, and it up to the company to do what is right to Bennie, if they want to hold him, for there are other firms who are watching their chance to get Bennie in their employ, for he is a valuable man in his line of work.”

Everyone retired early, on Sunday evening, as they were to leave Philadelphia on the 7 A. M. train so as to arrive at Chester in plenty of time.

Bennie did not wire Hannah at Chester, for she was expecting him, and as she was busy she did not go to meet him at the station, so Bennie did not lose any time on the way to his love.

Soon he arrived, and Hannah was on the lookout for him,—she saw him coming up the street, and went to the door to meet him, he told her that all the folks from Philadelphia would be at the wedding, and Mother and Marie, will also be here, as they are expecting them to arrive Saturday evening.

Arthur and Teresa could not come, as from the tones of his letter, he has some important transactions to take up, at a directors meeting Monday morning but they both join in sending their congratulations to us.

“How happy I am Bennie dear, and how happy I shall be to meet your dear Mother, and all your family, and that reminds me dear, that I wrote my sister in Chicago, that we were to be married, but I received no answer, and last week, I wired her, and so far have not had any response.”

“That looks like they have left Chicago, said Bennie, Don’t it dear?” “Yes, it seems that way, said Hannah, for the same morning that Mother passed away I wired my sister to come to Chester, but I never got an answer.”

The 9 A. M. train from Philadelphia, had pulled in at Chester station and Bennie was there to meet them, and they were not long in reaching the Sharp home, where Hannah was waiting anxiously to meet them. When they arrived, Bennie took his Mother by the arm, and as Hannah came to meet them as they entered the door, he said to Hannah,—“Hannah dear,—This is My Mother whom I have often spoken to you about,—Hannah kissed her, and putting her arms about her neck, said,—How I have longed to meet you, for I have always loved you for I could not help loving you, for the loving thoughts you have always given Bennie. “Yes, Hannah dear, I love Bennie, and have loved him since he was born, and since your attachment for one another, I have longed and yearned to see you, for by so doing, you have brought him to realize, and heed **My Guiding Voice.**”

Such was the Love of Hannah, as she said to Bennie’s Mother, “Now that my dear mother is gone to realms above,—won’t you let me call you Mother? For I need a Mother always, and I know you will fill my dear Mother’s place. “Yes, Hannah dear, you can call me Mother, and I shall always be glad to help you, in sending to you my loving thoughts at all times.”

Hannah was introduced to all the folks, and they were highly elated to think that Bennie was getting a wife who was a talented and a model house-keep-

er, with a pleasing and agreeable disposition at all times.

It was, or rather is not necessary to say that Mr. Sharp found friendship within the hearts of all of Bennie's relatives, for Bennie had often spoken of Mr. Sharp's love for him, to all his relatives.

After a little time, the automobile arrived, and they all made their way to the Episcopal rectory, where they took their seats prepared for them, excepting Millie, and her friend, who retired to the vestry room, as they were the attendants.

The Church organ was pealing the wedding march,—and as from the Unseen,—Hannah, was entering the centre aisle of the church from the vestry room leaning upon the arm of her father, when all eyes were upon her, she looked like the Spirit of her Mother, dressed in a wedding gown of steel gray silk crepe, which was trimmed with Maltese lace, carrying a bridal bouquet of White Roses, she looked what she represented,—The Divine essence of Goodness,—in purity and Innocence.

On reaching the altar, the marriage ceremony being performed, and both had said in turn, "I Will" in answer to their vow, Bennie placing the ring upon Hannah's finger, gave her a loving Kiss, which meant to her,—That Bennie was now a part of her,—In Body,—Soul,—and in Spirit.

After many congratulations; which were many, they were soon back at the Sharp Home, where a wedding dinner had been prepared, which was amazing for the eyes to feast upon, and also near by, was a table loaded down with wedding presents from relatives and friends.

It was during the dinner, that Uncle Joe had stood up and gave a toast to the bride and groom, and said, "As I want to catch the next train leaving Chester, I want to present to you a token from the Company and myself, with our hearty congratulations, for your future welfare, and passing the checks to them, said, if you will excuse me for my



"TWO LOVING SOULS ARE MADE ONE"

As Though From the Unseen—Hannah was Entering the Aisle
of the Church Upon the arm of her Father.

hasty departure, I will leave." And Uncle Joe was gone.

The wedding feast being over, Hannah and her husband, prepared to leave on the evening train with Bennie's folks, when all would go as far as Philadelphia; when Bennie and his wife, and his Mother would go to New York, leaving Marie to spend a few weeks in Philadelphia, visiting her many relatives.

It was late Monday evening when the bridal couple accompanied by Bennie's Mother, waved a loving good-bye to the Philadelphia folks, and the train pulled out for New York, which arrived about mid-night, and were soon at the Thomas home on Washington Heights where they were given congratulations from Arthur and Teresa and the children, who had got out of bed to greet their Aunt Hannah and Uncle Bennie.

After relating all the news of the wedding, and of the folks in Philadelphia, they all retired.

Early the following morning, they were all seated at the breakfast table, enjoying a breakfast prepared by Teresa, with everything the season could afford, talking of the good things in store for them, Mother Gregory was waiting her chance to get Hannah and Bennie to herself, for a quiet chat,—It came, but she was held up, for Arthur had interceded her as they were about to go to the sitting room, and said,—“Now I want everyone get ready to go down to the city, as I have arranged to have a day to ourselves,—sight-seeing.”

After spending the day pleasantly, they returned home, and Bennie's Mother having got Hannah and Bennie to herself, she gave them her personal congratulations, and said,—“This is what I have been happily looking forward to, and my heart beats with joy and happiness, and I wish you both all the happiness this world can give you, and I will always send you my Loving thoughts, and ask the Infinite Spirit to guide you, and by their help,

and by the help of the influence of your dear Mother who is in Spirit, and my advice, they will lead you on to a higher and nobler thoughts my dear.

For I have always listened, and acted under the guidance of our Unseen helpers, and have always asked them to lead me, and have faith and trust in them at all times, and now I want to repeat a verse or two which will inspire you on, which reads:—

“O, Spirit Guides, through you I see
Those things that once were veiled to me;
Through your return, I understand,
That I now dwell in the promised land.
The place is here, the time is now
To plant the seed, that it may grow
To be a Paradise.

O, Spirit Guides, through your return,
So many lessons I can learn,
To know God's Love is E'r sublime,
And leads me on through space and time;
He sends you back to Light the Way
For me to travel day by day
In this a Paradise.

O, Spirit Guides, through you I know,
That we will reap just as we sow—
Each kindly thought, a rose, a lily fair.
Through you, we prove that God has given
To every man an earthly heaven.—
A Glorious Paradise.”

CHAPTER XXI

BENNIE GREGORY'S HOME IN PHILADELPHIA

When Mother Gregory had finished the verses, Hannah said, "What a grand thought, mother dear, to know that our loved ones are close to us, guiding and leading us in the paths of right and duty, as well as inspiring and impressing us, at all times. I know that the Spirit of my dear mother is ever near me, and as you say mother dear, I shall always ask for guidance to be led along the heavenly way."

Arthur and Teresa had bent every effort to entertain Bennie and his bride, they had gone to many places of interest, and as the time was close at hand, when Bennie must return to his work, Arthur suggested that they go to the Academy of Music, but on second thought he said, "Or perhaps you would prefer going to the Hippodrome, which is a wonderful sight to behold. And as to-morrow will be your last day, I thought you would like to visit the Brooklyn Navy Yards in the fore-noon and get back intime for the evening train."

"Yes," said Bennie, "I think these arrangements are fine but I believe Hannah would rather go to the Hippodrome." Hannah said she had heard so much about it that she would like very much to go there.

"Arthur is quite an entertainer, and it is very kind of him to show us all these places of interest, Teresa," said Hannah. Mother Gregory spoke up and said, "Yes, that is his nature to oblige and be kind, his happiness consists of making others happy."

They had lunch early and preparations were under way for the trip to the Hippodrome. Arthur said, "I don't want to hurry you, but it would be

better to get there as early as possible, for the Hippodrome is always crowded and we will be able to secure better seats by so doing."

Bennie said, "That sounds reasonable, so do not hurry, but be as quick as ever you can." They all laughed at Bennie's joke, but hurried, so they were soon on their way to the subway.

Arthur planned the trip so the strangers would see as much as possible of New York railway service. So Arthur said, "We will take the local as far as one hundred sixteenth street, then take the express to fourteenth street or Brooklyn Bridge, and transfer to Grand Central, walk two blocks back to forty-fourth and sixth avenue and we are there. My reason for all this is to have you see the network of underground railways, but we only cover a small area to-day."

"I see, remarked, Hannah, it must be a splendid accomodation for the public coming in from the suburbs of the city." Arthur said that people could not do without it, now. They were now on the subway as scheduled, and soon they were at the Grand Central, Arthur told them they had traveled several miles at the small cost of five cents apiece. Now we shall walk about two blocks, and as they were about to cross Fifth Avenue at Forty-second Street, Arthur called their attention to one of the Public Libraries, saying they could procure most any volume they could mention.

Arriving at the Hippodrome, Arthur got the tickets and as they entered they marveled at the scenery and at the seating capacity, as Hannah whispered to mother Gregory—"Does this not bespeak of the ingenuity of man?" "Yes indeed it does, said Mother Gregory, but still I feel that a man's Intuition governs him, and then we link him with Divine Inspiration which all great and good men are endowed with."

The conversation ceased, for the curtain was dropping, (not rising), and what they beheld, kept

them spellbound for some time, and they will long remember it. The performance ended about five o'clock and now Arthur told them they would take a different route on their homeward trip. So they walked to Times Square which was two blocks on Forty-second and Broadway, where they boarded a subway local to Fifty sixth and Columbus Circle then took the Express to One hundred and sixteenth street then the local to One hundred and sixty-fourth and Washington Heights, which brings us almost to our door.

Everyone had enjoyed the day and there was much to talk about. After supper, Hannah, Bennie and Mother Gregory were seated in the living room enjoying a quiet hour and Bennie said, "Mother dear, after leaving here, Hannah and I are going to Philadelphia, she will stay with Aunt Sarah till Saturday night then we will go to Chester, make arrangements to move to Philadelphia where we intend to make our home. Hannah spoke up and said, "Mother dear, wont you come and live with us? Father is coming to stay with us, and Bennie and I both want you, and will do all we can to make you feel at home with us."

"Well, Hannah dear, I know you are sincere and would like me to be near you, but I have attached myself to Arthur and Teresa and the children, that it would almost break their hearts to leave them now." "Yes, mother, we realize your attachment to the Thomas Family, you seem to be a part of them, so I suppose Bennie and I must be satisfied to have you come and see us once in a while, but mother dear, always bear in mind, that we love you, and as the Master says, I am with you always—even unto the end" so you will be always near us—in our hearts—in our home, where you are always welcome."

"Hannah dear, I appreciate this and feel it is from the depths of your heart," said Mother Gregory. They were tired and all retired early,

for they were to get an early start in the morning, as they were to visit the Brooklyn Navy Yards. As before, Arthur had the route all planned. At eight o'clock they were ready and took the elevated to Brooklyn Bridge, and walked across this famous bridge to the Navy yards. After a little delay, they were given permission to get in. Here they saw immense War Ships (Sea Monsters), being repaired, repainted and re-modelled for the destruction of human life.

They returned in time for lunch and the children were eagerly asking all kinds of questions, which their father answered to the best of his ability. The older folks were interested also.

The afternoon passed quickly and soon Teresa is busy preparing supper and Hannah is helping her in the kitchen, these two loving souls drawn close together, for Hannah was indeed a kind, loving soul and had been attached to this family. Supper was announced, all were seated at the table when Mother Gregory opened her Soul and asked a blessing. "Oh Infinite Spirit, be present at our table, be here and everywhere adored, thy servants grant, and bless, that we may feast in Paradise with Thee." "What a grand thought this kind soul instilled in the minds of her hearers—her children, and Hannah added, "God grant that it be so."

As Bennie and Hannah were leaving on the early train, they had to get ready, so they bid a fond farewell to Mother Gregory and the children and soon they were headed toward the Pennsylvania station. Arthur and his wife going with them. Arthur invited them back as soon as they could come, and as it was now train time, good-byes were exchanged and our friends separate for the time being, Bennie and his wife bound for Philadelphia and his work.

The train was on time and as soon as they arrived in Philadelphia Bennie sent a night letter to Mr. Sharp, saying they were back in Philadel-

phia, and would be in Chester the following Saturday night. Had a pleasant trip and were both well.

Aunt Sarah was not expecting Bennie and his bride till the next day, so she was surprised to see them as they stepped in the house. She welcomed them and threw her arms about Hannah as she kissed her. "I know you had a nice visit, for your faces fairly beam, how is your mother, Bennie?"

"Auntie, my mother really looks well, she seems so satisfied in New York with Arthur and his family, that one can not help but know she is well cared for. We all enjoyed the different trips, mother stood the strain as well as we younger ones." Hannah told Aunt Sarah how much her sister reminded her of her own dear mother, her ways, her disposition and her loving nature made me see my dear mother and I am glad to have her for my mother, as I am much attached to her, for her own sake and for Bennie's, whom I love more than all else.

In a little while Uncle Joe came in from the city and he was surprised to see Bennie and Hannah. "Well, well, well, said he, welcome home my boy," and he extended both hands to him. Bennie reached out with two hands in response and shook hands heartily, and Hannah took Uncle Joe's big hand in hers and leaning her head on his broad shoulder said, "We have had a fine time" as she looked into his eyes he saw the trust she placed in him for she wanted him to know she loved all who loved her Bennie.

On Saturday Bennie phoned to Amelia at Camden, telling her to spend the day with them at Aunt Sarah's and she promised to come as soon as they could get ready for she was anxious to see Hannah. The day was spent quietly and that evening while all were gathered together, talking about their wonderful trip and the folks in New York when Hannah remarked about the resem-

blance of Bennie's Mother to her own mother, turning to Aunt Sarah she said, "I feel the presence of my dear mother here with us, for I feel her influence around me."

"How grand it must be," said Amelia, "To have our loved one near us, to guide our footsteps.—and that reminds me of a poem I read last Sunday after we came from church."

"When the hours of day are numbered,
And the voices of the night,
Wake the better Soul, that slumbered,
To a holy—calm delight.

E'er the evening lamps are lighted
And, like phantoms grim and tall,
Shadows from the fitful firelight
Dance upon the parlor wall.

Thus the forms of the departed
Enter at the open door;
The beloved, the true hearted,
Come to visit us once more.

With a slow and noiseless footstep
Comes that messenger Divine,
Takes the vacant chair beside me,
Lays her gentle hand in mine.

And she sits and gazes at me,
With those deep and tender eyes,
Like the stars so still and saint like
Looking downward from the skies.

Oh! though oft depressed and lonely
All my fears are laid aside,
If I remember only
Such as these have lived and died."

"As I read this wonderful poem, I thought surely Longfellow must have been inspired by some Divine Intelligence or else he could not utter such a thought. It was then I felt my dear Father draw so close to me, he was so real, so like himself that I almost thought he was in body, instead of in Spirit life."

"Yes, Amelia, they are ever near us," said Hannah.

After the folks had left for New Jersey, Uncle Joe said, "Well Bennie, my boy, I suppose we will see you on the job in the morning." "Yes indeed and I am coming to work," and he did. He kept his word, he had something to work for, now, his love, his Hannah—he worked faithfully taking great interest in his work, making rapid strides for he was of a progressive nature.

Saturday evening we find Bennie and Hannah on their way to Chester, and as Mr. Sharp had not been informed as to when they would come he was not at the station, but they found him in the living room reading his paper as usual. So he welcomed them back, as Hannah clung to him kissing him over and over again, saying, "We have had a wonderful trip, father, and Bennie's folks were so kind to me, dear. We saw so much that is interesting but most of all, Father, I love Bennie's mother, she is so like my dear Mother, so loving and kind and thoughtful and Bennie will share his mother with me and I call her mother, too. I love her."

Her father kissed her and said he was glad they had enjoyed their visit and had such a wonderful time. "Now father dear, Bennie thinks I had better stay here a few days, then come to Philadelphia and we can select our furniture so we can go to house keeping." This was quite a surprise to him, for he said, "Wait a minute, I have a suggestion to make, "I want you and Bennie to consider that all the furniture in this house is yours, and yours only— so why buy more? You may need some little extras, but you know, Hannah dear, that this is all practically new, and you are entirely welcome to it. Why spend money for this purpose, when this is yours dear?"

"How kind and generous you are, said Bennie, but I shall let Hannah decide." "Well, I knew Father would furnish his own room, and as we

have all this furniture, why I think we will use it and just buy a bed-room suite. "So that settles the question and there is no room for any argument," said Father Sharp.

"Then suppose, Dad, as I shall call you that from now on, you arrange to have the things packed and crated by the middle of the week and ship them, and then you and Hannah come to Philadelphia, I shall meet you at the station, if you let me know when to expect you." That was agreed upon and Mr. Sharp promised to ship the furniture to West Philadelphia.

They spent the week end happily with Hannah's father, on Sunday morning Hannah asked Bennie if he wanted to go to church.

"No, Hannah dear, not yet but when we get settled in our own home, then I will go with you, but it has been a long time since I attended church that I would feel strange, so later, I promise to go with you dear." Nothing more was said, she was satisfied that he meant well. Sunday evening as Bennie was leaving he said, "Dear, have Dad wire me when you leave and I will meet you" so saying, he kissed her affectionately, jumped on the moving train and was on his way to Philadelphia.

The train was on time and shortly our Bennie is at Aunt Sarah's, tired but happy. He retired at once for he wanted to get up early in the morning. So when Aunt Sarah called him, he was awake and alert, soon he was downstairs, where he was greeted by his uncle who was waiting to see him. "Good-morning. Bennie, how are you this morning?"

Bennie responded heartily that he was feeling fine and they ate their breakfast together. Soon they are on their way to work, but as they go out the gate Bennie turns back to tell Aunt Sarah to call Mr. Norris, a real estate agent, to see if he has a house of five or six rooms in West Philadelphia, and if so to arrange to show me the house this evening. "All right I will do that, Bennie."

Bennie hurried and soon overtook his uncle, to whom he explained why he went back. On arriving at the works the men crowded around Bennie to offer their congratulations for they had found out that he was married.

That evening Aunt Sarah informed him that Mr. Morris would meet him at the corner of Market & Lancaster Avenue, and take him to see a nice little house at Thirty-fifth and Lancaster, at seven o'clock. Bennie thanked her and said he would keep the appointment.

Bennie ate his supper and then went to meet Mr. Morris who was waiting at the corner when Bennie arrived. They were not long in reaching the house, which was in good condition, newly painted and papered, so as Bennie entered, he thought of Hannah, his love, his little wife. The rooms were arranged conveniently and so Bennie asked, "What does this rent for?" The agent said, "This is twenty-five dollars, but we have others for less money, but this is nicely located and in good shape."

"Well, said Bennie, I think this will suit my wife, so I'll pay a month in advance." "All right said he, what is the name please?" "Benny Gregory," was the reply. As he handed the money to Mr. Morris, he was given the receipt and the agent thanked him, hoping his wife would like the house. "Oh, here are the keys, I almost forgot to give them to you," said he.

With the keys safe in his pocket, Bennie lost no time in getting back to Aunt Sarah's. He told her he had rented the finest little house on the Avenue for Hannah. "I am glad of that," said she, "for Hannah is worthy of a nice home, and when she comes I will go with her to see it." "All right" said Bennie, "I know you will like it."

Meanwhile Hannah and her father were busy packing and had two men helping them, so they had everything ready to ship by Thursday, but ow-

ing to some delay it was Friday afternoon when the last load left the depot and was placed in the car. The freight agent assured Mr. Sharp that it should be in Philadelphia not later than Monday morning.

That night Mr. Sharp intended to spend at the hotel, but Hannah did not care to go to a hotel, so they spent the night with friends. On Saturday morning he sent a wire to Bennie saying they were leaving on the noon train, and told Hannah he wanted to call at the office to say good-bye to his friends and employers. "They have been good to me, Hannah, during the quarter century I have worked for them."

Hannah knew it was hard for her father to leave Chester, but she also knew he would rather make his home with them in Philadelphia, than to stay on, here alone, in Chester. So he told her he would not be long.

Getting a hasty lunch, they hurried to the station, just in time to get the train for Philadelphia. As they walked to the station Hannah said, "I feel that I am leaving a loving remembrance behind me—My Mother." "O, well Hannah dear," said her father, "You realize that your dear mother is always near us, and would not want us to grieve for her—for I know she is happy, dear."

They were almost in Philadelphia when Hannah remembered that Bennie would not get the wire till afternoon and so she did not expect to see him at the station and told her father so. "I never thought of that either, said he. Well, father dear, I know the way to Aunt Sarah's and we will surprise Bennie."

They boarded the car and soon arrived at Aunt Sarah's. Knocking at the door, Hannah waited a minute before it was opened by Aunt Sarah who was so pleased to see her and as she kissed her, she turned to her father and welcomed him to her home saying, "Quite a surprise, dear, and there is a wire here for Bennie, but he will not get home

for a couple of hours yet, and I presume the wire is from you?" "Yes it is said Hannah, but we will give Bennie a surprise."

When Bennie and his uncle came in, they, too, were pleasantly surprised and Uncle Joe was so pleased to see Mr. Sharp that he almost forgot to greet Hannah. The men prepared themselves for supper and while seated at the table, Mr. Sharp told how they had gotten the things ready and shipped and that he expected to have them in West Philadelphia not later than Monday morning.

As they were all together they told some of the interesting things about New York and the places they visited while there. Hannah said they wanted Mother Gregory to come with them but that she would not tear herself away from the Thomas family. Uncle Joe was busy telling Hannah's father about Bennie—his work—his adaptibility for the work and in what relation he stood with his employers.

Mr. Sharp had called up to find out if the goods came on the late freight and was told they had not. So now they would not expect them before Monday morning. On Monday morning he was told they came in on Sunday night and were ready for delivery.

Bennie, Hannah and Aunt Sarah went to inspect the house on Sunday afternoon, and were well pleased with Bennie's choice. Mr. Sharp inquired about teams and men to help carry the goods and was told that the goods would be at the house at ten o'clock Monday morning and to have some one there to receive them. This was entirely satisfactory to him and he gave the number of the house to the agent.

So he hurried home and told Hannah. She wanted to go with him but he told her, that he wanted to have some one wipe up the floors and carry the things in the different rooms, then he would come for her, and they would lay the rugs

and arrange the things in order. Late in the afternoon he came for Hannah and she was anxious to see the things in the house, so was ready to go with him to their home.

When she got there she was surprised, the house had been cleaned and was ready for the carpets, so they arranged some of the things and by five o'clock it looked as though it were ready to be occupied. They started back to Aunt Sarah's arriving about the same time as Bennie and Uncle Joe. Kissing Bennie, Hannah told him what her father had done. Mr. Sharp then told them that by to-morrow night, they could stay there.

The next evening they moved their baggage over to their house and Hannah was planning and scheming how she would make their home so attractive that Bennie her love—her husband would not have any desire to spend his evenings away from home.

She set to work in earnest to make this an ideal home for herself and Bennie, as well as for her dear father whom she loved devotedly. How she planned to spend the day getting things ready for pleasant evenings with her Bennie by her side. Thus she occupied herself and the time fairly flew.

Day by day we find her striving to make this an ideal love nest, a home to be proud of, and as we look in upon this household we find Bennie and Hannah alone in the living room and he is trying to tell his wife how she has made things bright for him. And he treasured all she had done and was still doing, for he said, "Hannah dear, it is true where your treasure is, there your heart is, also."

"'Mid pleasures and palaces though we may roam;
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home.
To thee I'll return, overburdened with care
My heart's dearest solace, (My Hannah)
Will smile on me there;
No more from our cottage, again I will roam
Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

Mr. Sharp in the adjoining room heard this dear soul express his love by these lines and it was indeed food for thought, these two loving souls, trying to make life pleasant for each other. Hannah kissed Bennie and said, "Dear, I shall always try to make our home a haven of rest for your soul."

CHAPTER XXII

MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT

Now that Bennie and Hannah are settled in an ideal home, tended by loving hands we find Mr. Sharp well pleased, Bennie is working, ever striving to accomplish greater things, for the good of himself as well as for his employers, who are watching with great interest, the things that Bennie is doing and they wonder at the results he obtains.

They are very much interested and are keen observers for they have something greater in view for Bennie, if he proves himself capable. Mr. Sharp having a fine record back of him has very little trouble in securing a position of honor and trust, for his reputation is such as to merit it.

He was made Bank Messenger in one of the large banks and filled this position with credit to himself, for he was honest and upright in every way, ever working for the interest of his employers.

Hannah shows the same traits as her father, it seems honesty and truthfulness is so instilled in her that she can not but show her upbringing and it is well for Bennie, for this dear soul sends out her loving thoughts to him at all times for she is creating harmony and love for those who are near and dear to her.

True to his promise, Bennie goes with Hannah and her Father to the large Episcopal Church, and Hannah knowing that Bennie was not accustomed to the service, found the hymns, the service in the prayer book, and helped him to follow the Litany and chants, with tenderest care and devotion, at the close of the service they sang a hymn which both will long remember for it appealed to their inner selves.



“MANIFESTATION OF THE SPIRIT”

“It is I, Hannah Dear, Mother is With you. I am Still
Loving you, and Always will, Dear.”

“Thy Way—Not mine, O God,
However dark it be;
Lead me by Thy own hand;
Choose out the path for me.
Smooth let it be or rough,
It will be still the best;
Wind’y or straight, it leads
On to Thy rest.

Choose Thou for me my friends,
My sickness and my health;
Choose Thou my cares for me,
My poverty or wealth.
Not mine—not mine the choice,
In things both great or small;
Be Thou My Guide, My Strength,
My Wisdom and My All.”

After they got home, Hannah took her hymn book and read this hymn over again to Bennie and her father. After she finished she closed the book and said, “A grand truth is conveyed to us in that verse for we have instilled upon us that there is an Unseen Entity ever leading and Guiding us on through life, and as I knelt at Bennie’s side, father dear, during the Litany this morning, I felt the presence of my dear Mother, and as we left the church on our way home, I felt her loving presence with us and when I read the verses a moment ago I felt her loving hand on my head and her cheek against mine as I heard these loving words, “IT IS I, HANNAH, DEAR, MOTHER IS WITH YOU. I AM STILL LOVING YOU, AND ALWAYS WILL, DEAR, Guiding You On and On.

“Mother was gone, but I know she will come again soon, father dear.” They did not go to church in the evening but spent it quietly reading good literature, they retired early as the men were to get away early in the morning.

Hannah knelt by her bed and prayed fervently for guidance from the loving helpers, to help and direct her Bennie and her father in the path of duty

and right, she asked that blessings be bestowed upon their home and as she finished, she said,—

“Guiding, loving asThou art,
Come and live within our heart
Never more from us depart,
Guiding loving Spirit.”

On Monday morning, Bennie and Daddy Sharp went to work as usual, and so Hannah was left alone, but she had many things to do, for she was never idle, finding and adding artistic touches here and there, to brighten their home. On the other hand we find Bennie just as much interested in his work, for it meant much to him, he now had an incentive to work—his wife—his only love. So we find him planning his work by their peaceful fire-side in the evenings.

He would bring his plans home and studied his drawings, formulated plans by which he advised the designers how to accomplish and give the best results possible from their labor.—He studied labor from another angle—to get work done with the least labor thereby adding dollars and cents to his employer’s credit. It was along these lines that he would approach the cutters and setters, and instruct them in a nice friendly way, what to do under certain conditions, and many a thank you was given him for helping these workers out of their seeming difficulties.

So Bennie’s progression is watched by other eyes, who wondered in amazement at the wonderful strides he made and the results accomplished. His superiors, watching silently, and just as silently Bennie works on, never boasting of his superior skill for he had read that—“The silent man is the strongest man.”

So his employers wonder and try to fathom it out. Was it Divine Inspiration, that was leading him on, helping him out of all difficult tasks as

they presented themselves? Surely it must be so, he must be led on by an Unseen force, and it was true. It was his mothers **Guiding Voice** and it was Hannah's mothers voice, urging him on and on, leading him in the straight and narrow path, giving him encouragement when things looked dark and thus strengthened him, enabling him to overcome adverse conditions that would loom before him from time to time.

The loving thoughts of Her Guiding Voice, and of the Unseen would inspire in him an energetic force—that difficult conditions were accomplished without the least effort on his part. Why? Because he had faith and assurance that as he prayed at night for Divine Guidance from the Source of all Wisdom, he knew that his prayers would be answered, and they were truly, in word and deed.

He and his loving wife were ever sowing seeds of kindness along their way through life, on the street, among their neighbors and friends and Bennie would reach out a helping hand to his fellow workers, and as time goes by we see him rise in superior knowledge given by those who do all things well.

WE SHALL SEE.

Bennie had written to his mother telling her they were now settled in a nice little home near Aunt Sarah and that Hannah's father was staying with them. He sent their love to the Thomas family and asked them all to pay a visit in the near future. That they were all well and he had the best little wife that ever was, and how he hoped to make amends for all his past mis-deeds.

Aunt Sarah, Uncle Joe and Millie called soon after they were fixed up, and they were amazed at the cozy little home Hannah had made for Bennie, for did she not? It was her love for Bennie that led her on to arrange and make the best of what they could afford. Every thing in order, in truth it was an ideal home and any man might be proud to say,

"Our home." And Bennie was proud of his home and more so of his wife whom he fairly adored.

Millie told her sister that she was so proud of her and thanked her for doing all this for her brother whom she loved, too. What excellent taste and such selections as were made had a tendency to make even common things look ideal, for every item was carefully selected by that loving little home builder.

Hannah told them that she was proud because Bennie appreciated her every effort and never failed to praise her work in his behalf. Aunt Sarah assured Hannah that Bennie would appreciate it for it was his nature as I found out while he was under our roof, "For he always appreciated any little thing I might do for his comfort." "Millie said she could not help but feel that they were all happy in such a home, with the one you love best near you always."

About the middle of the week, Hannah received a letter from Teresa saying that if the weather permitted they would pay a short call the following Sunday, they would drive through, starting early and if all went well they would arrive early in the forenoon so you can expect us.

Hannah was elated and skipped about with joy, she could hardly wait for Bennie to get home, so anxious was she to tell her good news. So as she kissed him, she told him that the folks from New York were coming Sunday, and kissing him again she gave him his sister's letter to read. Her father looked on, thinking how glad her mother must be to see her so happy with her love, her Bennie.

Saturday afternoon being a half holiday, both Bennie and Dad were at home so at lunch Bennie proposed that they get ready and take a little trip to Fairmont Park as that was not very far off. Hannah asked how they would get there and Bennie explained that they just needed transfer once and that the Park was not many minutes ride away and said he, "I want you to see the Zoo, Hannah."

Hannah was delighted and she was quite eager to be started.

Soon they are on the car bound for the Park, and they walked over the grounds, admiring the beautiful plants and flowers and then went to the Zoo, where they saw many strange and interesting animals. Late in the afternoon they started for home, each satisfied with the trip. ,

Hannah had prepared for the visitors whom they were expecting next day so it was with a light and joyous heart that they prepared to retire, for they wanted to be up early the following morning. So early breakfast was served, and truly enjoyed by all for Hannah was a good cook and a thrifty housekeeper as well as a loving and ideal home maker.

Hannah sang as she cleared up the things and tidied the house for she expected Bennie's folks any minute now, and Bennie was watching for them. After a while he ran to Hannah saying, "Here they come now, dear." So Bennie and Hannah were there to greet them as they stepped from the car.

What a hearty welcome Hannah extended, and kissing Mother, Teresa and the children, shaking hands with Arthur, they went into the house where Arthur and his family met Mr. Sharp for the first time, as they were not present at the wedding. They talked of their wonderful ride and Arthur said that they came along just fine as far as Newark, New Jersey when they had some trouble with the tires and I had to slack up a little owing to the green patch. "Oh, yes, we started early and outside of that delay, we made excellent time."

"How are you all," asked Arthur, but before any one could answer he added, "You seem nicely settled here and I am sure you are happy, Bennie." Bennie was all smiles as he looked at Hannah and answered, "Yes, I owe this all to this little wife of mine, she does everything to make our home ideal for both her father and myself."

Teresa had lost no time in discovering that this

was indeed an ideal home and she told Bennie he was fortunate in having such a loving companion to look after his wants. Mother Gregory was acquainted with the neighborhood, for she told them she used to visit several Scotch families in this section. "How did you enjoy the ride, mother dear," asked Bennie? Mother said she enjoyed every bit of it, for the scenery is beautiful especially through New Jersey.

Mr. Sharp and Arthur had taken themselves into the living room and were enjoying a smoke, while the children were listening to Uncle Bennie telling about the Zoo at Fairmont Park, so the ladies slipped into the kitchen where Hannah served a cup of tea, that she had ready for them after their long ride. Mother Gregory was pleased to think that Hannah was so thoughtful of their comfort. "I know you are all hungry but I shall have dinner in just a little while."

Excusing herself she told them that Bennie and Father would entertain them in the meanwhile. Bennie was telling a story and just as he finished it, Hannah called him to have the men prepare for dinner as she was ready in a few minutes. Everyone responded and soon this happy group were seated at a table that did ample credit to Hannah as a cook, and all enjoyed a well prepared meal.

Bennie related some incidents with regard to his work, and Arthur told Mr. Sharp several experiences he had had in his line of work and that now there is talk of constructing a great underground water way—under the city by a tunnel many miles long, bringing the water from the Catskill Mountains, which is pure and good, and distribute it to all parts of the city and Brooklyn.

"That must be a wonderful piece of engineering," said Hannah's Father. Hannah said, "It must be marvelous, but we all know that the genius of man is not fully developed for we hear of the rapid strides in inventing, etc. Yes that is all quite true,

and if man would only develop his inner self, so as to know himself—we would have a type of man that would be useful and could be of great help to people in the different walks of life.”

“Yes,” said Mr. Sharp, “I agree with you on that point, for I am sure there is a vast difference in the making of man, because you see how bright and intellectual some people are, while others have their minds lying dormant. Psychology explains this thoroughly.”

Arthur went on to say that Psychology only partly explains the works of the inner man, for it does not reach far enough to take in the finer attributes of the soul and its quality. Everyone had now become interested in the talk and Mother Gregory said to Arthur, “I did not realize that you had studied Psychology to such an extent, Arthur.”

Arthur then explained that he had studied somewhat but that he went deeper, in the hidden things of life, some may call it mystery,—others—canny, but really there is nothing mysterious or uncanny about it, for it is simply the actions of The Natural Law. “Many of us realize that like attracts like, hence the Law of Attraction. Therefore that explains that when we are sitting in the silence—and with that desire to see and feel the influence of their presence near us. Longfellow voices what I want to say in this poem.”

“All houses wherein men have lived and died
Are haunted houses, through the open doors
The harmless phanoms on their errands glide,
With feet that make no sound upon the floors.

We meet them in the doorway, on the stairs,
Along the passages they come and go,
Impalpable impressions on the air,
A sense of something moving to and fro.

There are more guests, at table than the hosts
Invited; the illuminated hall
Is thronged with queer, inoffensive ghosts,
As silent as the pictures on the wall.

The stranger at my fireside can not see
 The forms I see, nor hear the sounds I hear;
 He but perceives what is; while unto me
 All that has been, is visible and clear."

The Spirit world around this world of sense
 Floats like an atmosphere and everywhere
 Wafts through these earthly mists and vapors dense
 A vital breath of more ethereal air.

Our little lives are kept in equipose
 By opposite attractions and desires;
 The struggle of the instinct that enjoys,
 And the more noble instinct that aspires."

The poem ended, Mr. Sharp said, "I know what Longfellow says is absolute true, and he mentions the attractions and desires as you referred to, Arthur, so if we stop to consider what he expresses, we come to the conclusion that he must be gifted with (second sight) or Clairvoyant power, for we found that he said, "The stranger at my fireside can not see the forms I see, Nor hear the sounds I hear, He but perceives what is, while unto me All that has been, is visible and clear."

"Yes," said, Hannah, "I often feel the Sprit of my dear mother near me, impressing me what to do, and Father and I both realize that we are ever surrounded by her loving influence, guiding and leading us on in the paths of right."

Arthur went on telling them, "That by our intense love for them, we attract them to us, I have studied the Law of attraction and several other laws and have harmonized them, and so I have developed myself in the Silence, with the Unseen Forces, where I can at times communicate with our loved ones wherever they may be, or in any clime.

If we could stay over this evening I would give you a message from your dear mother which would convince you, but never-the-less let us draw ourselves closer together, and send out our loving thoughts to them, and if we get into the vibration of the Spheres, we shall hear voices, or at least I

shall." Some changed seats, and Arthur asked his Mother to take a seat beside him, and when they were seated and questions provided, then Arthur asked Mother Gregory to offer a prayer asking for guidance from the Unseen Forces.

Mother Gregory responded, asking the loved ones from the Borderland to join them saying that where two or three are gathered together in Thy name that The Infinite Spirit would be present among them. After she finished her supplication she spoke saying, "There is nothing hid that shall not be made known."

"Well, well, said Arthur, that reminds me of something very remarkable, for your mother is here, Hannah dear, and I'll tell you what she says. "There is a tall chiffoner in your mother's room that had four drawers on each side and two long drawers in the bottom. Now—in the second drawer from the top on the right hand side there was a small box, dark brown in color and tied with a yellow ribbon." Hannah stopped him by saying, "Yes, I have that box in my dresser, now."

Arthur went on, "Inside the box is a lady's ring, rather odd in shape, and having a red stone, not a ruby but looks much like one, this is of Hindu origin and was your Grand-mother's, and she says she mentioned this to you some time ago. I was glad you did not sell the furniture as I wanted you to have it, that is why I impressed your father to insist on you having it."

Mr. Sharp spoke, "I realize that the message is from my dear wife, Hannah's mother, as I am the only one who knows the origin of the ring, and I knew it was her Spirit impressing me as to what to do with the furniture, and so I decided that Hannah and Bennie should have it." Arthur went on saying "That the Sprit sends her love to all and that she is happy knowing you are all so happy.

CHAPTER XXIII

BENNIE MAKES AMENDS FOR HIS DEEDS OF THE PAST. A SON IS BORN.

The Thomas's were preparing to leave but Mr. Sharp and Bennie persuaded them to prolong their visit an hour or so, "For it may be quite a while before we are all together again and we regret seeing you leave so early." Hannah prepared a lunch for them before they started on their homeward journey.

Mother Gregory had a chance to speak to Bennie and Hannah for Mr. Sharp and Arthur were interested in some topic in the living room, and the rest were in the dining room, when she said to Hannah, "Let us go to your room, dear, and have a little visit." So Mother, Bennie and Hannah adjourn to their room where that dear old Soul opened her heart to Hannah. She praised Hannah highly, saying, "They surely had an ideal home which bespeaks of your artistic nature, my dear, and I am sure Bennie nor any one else would not wish to leave such a happy hearth."

"Yes, mother, I decided to make a home that Bennie could call a home worth while, and which he would never have a tendency to leave, for his happiness is in my keeping and I shall ever cater to his every want, for I love Bennie and I know he returns my love."

Time was passing rapidly and Arthur being anxious to start, Hannah gave them a tasty lunch, and soon they were getting their things together to start, as it was getting dusk and Arthur wanted to be at home by mid-night. Good-byes were exchanged and the party was off. The Gregory household were loathe to part with their guests who

seemed to be a part of themselves. They waved as far as they could see them, but the car was making good speed, headed for New Jersey.

As Bennie was not certain of the folks coming, he did not tell Aunt Sarah, so when they came we find that Aunt Sarah, Uncle Joe and Millie and Clyde had gone to spend the day with Amelia at the Roger's home in Camden, New Jersey. So Mother Gregory missed her sister and the children, but she promised to come back soon and stay a few days with the folks. Aunt Sarah was very much dis-appointed to think that she had missed her sister.

At work the next morning, Bennie tells his uncle that the folks had sent word but were not positive they would come, "Or I certainly would have informed you, Uncle Joe." "That is all right my boy, we were expected in Camden and so we would have had to go any way, so do not let that worry you, Bennie."

Uncle Joe said that he was thinking of going to New York over a week-end and perhaps we can arrange to all go together. That will be fine, Uncle. They were accosted by the Superintendent who told Bennie his presence was desired at the office and to go at once. "All right, thank you sir, said Bennie, I'll go at once." As Bennie entered the office the Chief Clerk greeted him and asked him to go with him, and Bennie finds himself in the private office of the General Manager, Mr. Young who said, "Good-morning Mr. Gregory."

"Good-morning," said Bennie. "Please be seated," pointing to a chair. The Clerk was dismissed, closing the door behind him. "Mr. Gregory," said Mr. Young, "I have called you to my room to have a heart to heart talk with you. We are deeply interested in you and yours, we have been keeping in touch with your work from time to time and find the excellent record you have made."

"We have secured a large contract on some con-

struction work out of the city, and we want a first-class man to take your uncle's place, as we want to send him on the new job. We therefore deem it wise and your just due to offer you the position as Fore-man of the job that you are on at present, and if you care to accept it, I shall make it worth your while to make every effort to bring about desired results, for we feel you have been very much interested in your work."

"I thank you for your offer, Mr. Young, and I shall, as always, endeavor to get the best results, and again thank you kindly for the confidence you have placed in me, and I hope to give you entire satisfaction." "I am absolutely sure of the results, Mr. Gregory, and as your uncle will probably leave for the new job tomorrow, so please take full charge of the situation." "You can rely on me to attend to that," said Bennie.

This closed the interview, and Mr. Young shook hands warmly with Bennie, and he proved a steadfast friend.

WE SHALL SEE.

Bennie was soon on the job, and was looking for his uncle who was anxious to see him. When Uncle Joe saw Bennie he smiled, and then Bennie realized that his uncle knew all about it. "Well, Bennie, what's the good news?" Oh! I suppose you know, answered he. "Yes, indeed, I know. for I started the ball rolling, for it is only just and fair that you get this chance, as you are worthy of it. I do not like the idea of going out of the city to work, but the company wanted me to take charge of the new work, so I suggested that you fill my place here."

"Uncle, you are always doing something for me and mine, yet I never get a chance to do anything for you. But some day I hope to be able to repay all the kindnesses you and Aunt Sarah have bestowed upon me." "Bennie, I was thinking of Clyde too, but I do not like the idea of him going on the

new job, for he would have to board there as his work calls for later hours than mine, for he must report the time after working hours. For myself, I can travel back and forth in the machine. So I have thought the matter over, and think he had better stay on here with you, and he can be under our roof, as he is most too young to wander about."

"I agree with you, uncle, no indeed I do not want to see Clyde or any of my family wandering about the country, I have had experience and know it is not the best thing." So Clyde was to stay on for the present, at least.

That night it was a happy Bennie who rushed into the kitchen, as soon as he removed his hat and coat, for he was anxious to tell Hannah his good news. "Hannah dear, I have good news for you," he said smiling as he kissed her fervently. "Have you dear?" "Yes, I am promoted to Foreman, I take Uncle Joe's place, as he is to go out of the city on some large contract. He starts tomorrow, dear."

Hannah was as elated as her husband, for she put her arms around his neck and kissed him over and over again, saying, "Truly, Bennie, you are being led by an Unseen Force, as I prayed that you be at all times, and I see my prayers are being answered day by day." Bennie kissed her and said, "Yes dear, I realize what you say is true, for when I went into the private room of the General Manager this morning, I felt the presence of your dear Mother by my side, talking to me as I went on my way, assuring me the Unseen Forces are ever leading me on."

As Hannah was ready to serve supper, Bennie was about to call Dad, when he came out of the living room and greeted Bennie, who said, "Come to supper, Dad." They were soon seated and during the meal Bennie said, "Well, Dad, I got another promotion." "Glad of that, Bennie, in what line?"

"I am a little higher now, for I am Fore-man on

the job.” Dad got up and taking Bennie’s hand said, “Bennie, my boy, that shows they appreciate your services, and I wish you all the success in the world.” Hannah smiled and said they ought to be thankful. Bennie said, “Hannah dear, I am thankful, for I know we can do nothing, except by the help of the Unseen, for of ourselves we can do nothing.” “That is true, my boy,” said Dad. And Hannah smiled thinking how true it really was.

They were still at the table, when Bennie said, “Hannah dear, in all I do and say, I shall endeavor to repay in kindness and good deeds, for my unworthiness of the past. I have sown my wild oats, and like the prodigal that I was, I led a life of which I am ashamed; but now—I shall sow differently, my seed shall take root and grow, for I have returned from my prodigal life and see the error of my ways. I have something worth while to work for, I have a dear loving companion, an ideal home, position and friends around me even a dear Dad, whom I love and esteem. I have the assurance that My Mother’s Guiding Voice leads me from day to day, and I feel the Spirit of your dear mother draw very close to me whenever there is any doubt as what I should do, and if I stop a moment, she impresses me what to do.”

Some may scoff at this, and others censure us for thinking as we do, but now it is true, that the Spirit of our loved ones guide and lead us on to higher and nobler thoughts. Bennie had finished his supper and asked Hannah to get him a book, entitled Favorite Poems, out of the case. She complied and taking the poems he turned to this one.

“My Mother:—alone by the river side,
She waits for the flood of the heavenly tide,
The voice that shall thrill her heart with its call
To meet once more with the loved ones all
And form, in region beautified
That band that first met by the river side.”

"What a picture that must be that has been so beautifully portrayed in the verse you just read," said Hannah. Then clearing the table she suggested that they have a game of checkers. But Bennie said, "Hannah dear, if you do not mind I would like to look over some plans I brought home to-night, so Dad and you have a game instead." That was all right and Dad said he thought he could beat Hannah. But Bennie told him not to be too sure, for Hannah had beaten him several times. Hannah laughed as she answered, "But Father is quite an expert player, Bennie."

A pleasant evening was spent, Dad seemed to be playing in luck for he won most of the games. As Bennie would have to be early next day, they retired. The morning found Bennie alert and ready for his new position. While he had looked after things for his uncle and so helped over many a difficult place, he now had the whole responsibility resting on his shoulders. He realized the trust that was placed in him and had no fear but that he could accomplish what was on hand to do, yet he felt the burden now rested on him entirely.

But he threw all fear aside saying, "I fear nothing, for I know I shall be led at all times," and he went on with the work, never wavering. Each evening he took his plans home and went over them in detail, so he knew exactly what was on hand and so he was prepared to meet any difficulty or emergency that might arise from time to time.

Teresa had written to Hannah, saying they had no trouble on their return journey, got home safe but tired, a little after mid-night. The children were asleep and Mother was ready for her bed when we arrived. Arthur, mother and the children join me in sending love to Aunt Hannah and Uncle Bennie and not forgetting your dear father whom we all love. Arthur was attracted to him and wants to be remembered to him. "We hope to see you all in New York soon. Mother was sorry to have

missed seeing Aunt Sarah's folks, but has written her."

A year had passed and we find the Gregory home in harmony with the world. Bennie was successful at his work making many staunch friends, the job was completed with satisfaction to all concerned and now for three months he has been in charge of the construction of a large church on Chestnut Street.

Bennie had received a substantial raise in salary, and was pleased that he was giving satisfaction to his employers, so he was elated. He was all smiles as he went to the kitchen where he was sure to find Hannah, for she was anxious to have supper ready when Bennie came home, for Dad got in a little earlier.

Putting his strong arms around her he kissed her saying, "Hannah dear, I have another raise, more than I dreamed of dear, and such praise about my last work. So with this increase we shall be able to lay aside, for we will soon need it, will we not? "Yes dear, we must prepare for our little stranger and welcome it. After supper, if Father goes out, I want to show you the nice things I have been making." But Dad did not go out, and she had no chance to display her treasures.

The next evening they were alone, for Mr. Sharp had taken a walk. So no one would interrupt them, they went to Hannah's room. She unlocked the bottom drawer of her dresser and lifted out for Bennie's inspection some of the finest and daintiest garments all trimmed with lace and ribbon. Then she showed him things she had bought, for she was expecting this little stranger very soon and had been busy sewing for some time.

Aunt Sarah made frequent calls on Hannah. During the year Aunt Sarah's folks spent many a pleasant evening and Sunday afternoon at the Gregory home, where they always found a warm wel-

come. Clyde loved to visit Bennie and would often come with Millie.

The next week Hannah called Aunt Sarah asking her to come as soon as she could. Aunt Sarah needed no further urging but went at once, for she was expecting this message any time. When she got there she made Hannah as comfortable as possible and said, "I'll call the doctor." She did so but was told that the Doctor was out making his calls, but would be located and sent to the Gregory home at once. Then Aunt Sarah wanted to know if she wanted Bennie notified? "Yes, auntie," said Hannah. Aunt Sarah had some trouble locating Bennie, but after many efforts she was told that Bennie would be sent home at once.

Not long after the Doctor arrived with the nurse, Hannah gave birth to a beautiful blue-eyed boy. The nurse was dressing the little cherub when Bennie came in, asking, "How is my wife?" Just then the nurse heard the Doctor coming down stairs and before she could answer him, the Doctor said, "Mrs. Gregory is fine, and patting Bennie on the shoulder saying, you ought to be proud of such a son, a fine big fellow, and I envy you, for I have no son."

Bennie sympathized with him, for he realized what it must be to have no child to love, to caress and play with. Such is love. Bennie was anxious to see Hannah and was told he could go up but not to stay long as she needed to be quiet and sleep if possible. Such a meeting, Hannah, his wife was now a mother, how he loved her as he kissed her pale lips and tears of joy flowed freely.

As the days pass Hannah is progressing nicely and so is the child for all eyes are on the baby, their darling son whom they fairly idolized and adored.

"Oh Infant! I envy thee,
Thy seraph smile, thy soul without a stain;
Angels around thee hover in their glee,
A look of love to gain.

Thy paradise is made
Upon thy mother's bosom; and her voice
Is music rich as that by spirit shed
When blessed things rejoice."

The ties of love now seemed stronger than ever, for it seemed more sacred. "Blest be the tie that binds Our hearts in sacred love." Bennie loved and adored his only boy as he always loved its mother. He left no stone unturned when it came to looking after Hannah's comfort and the welfare of their child.

Congratulations and well wishes were showered upon Bennie and Hannah, for they had made many friends in Philadelphia. Many dainty as well as useful gifts were bestowed on the baby. One day, a few days after the baby arrived, Bennie was surprised to see the General Manager, and more so to have him come up and congratulate him saying, "Mrs. Young and I want to show our love and esteem by sending a little token to Bennie Junior." Bennie thanked him and said he appreciated the kindness. He did not say what this token was, but when Bennie got home he was surprised to see a beautiful crib all fitted with silk and down.

Hannah was elated and showed Bennie the card. When Hannah was able to be around, she was surprised to receive a call from Mrs. Young who introduced herself, saying she was so anxious to meet Mrs. Gregory and the new baby. She did not stay long but invited Hannah to call on her when she was able to be out. "I shall always love the baby and its parents."

But there was one soul, who sat still, silently taking it all in,—Hannah's Father. Now he thought, I am a Grand-father, and he would sit hour after hour by the crib and talk to that dear child who seemed to know he was the center of attraction. One evening after supper, he said to Hannah, "I suppose the baby has all he needs in the line of clothes for

the present, dear?" "Yes, father, was Hannah's reply. Well, I shall deposit one hundred dollars in the bank in his name said her father, and each month I shall add a little to it,—yes that is my present."

Bennie thanked him for his generosity and said, "We feel your love and kind thoughtful deeds are gift enough, Dad". One day some of Bennie's workmen said "When will we see your new assistant Fore-man on the job," Bennie smiled, knowing they wanted him to feel they knew of his blessing. He told them, that he was a fine big fellow with blue eyes and light hair.

CHAPTER XXIV.

BENNIE NOW A PROMINENT CITIZEN.—BECOMES A PARTNER IN THE FIRM.

Just then one of the officials came along, and hearing the remarks, he too, said, "Well how soon will the new assistant be on the job, Mr. Gregory?" "O pretty soon," and Bennie passed the joke along good naturedly. They enquired as to his wife's health and the baby's and were glad to hear Bennie say "Mother and son are both doing fine, thank you for the interest you have shown with regard to me and my family".

Bennie had written a long letter to Arthur and his sister telling that Hannah was the mother of a fine baby boy and that both were doing nicely. Amelia's family lost no time in calling and they were pleased to see Bennie settled in such a nice home, where contentment seemed to reign, for the new arrival added to the already happy home.

Bennie was just as much interested in his work and was pushing things right along to bring good results, but always had a kind cheerful word for all under his charge, and it was to him, the men would come when they were in trouble of any kind—he sowed seeds of kindness wherever he was—he called on the sick and always had a sympathetic word for the needy—and many times he helped those in distress for he was kindness itself.

He followed the teachings of his dear good mother, and often he felt her loving influence close to him for he was conscious of **Her Guiding Voice**, as if speaking in the silence. Hannah and the baby would go with Bennie on errands to those less fortunate, and they were always received with gladness

for the baby was a comfort to others as well as to the parents. The expressions of gratitude would lift them up and they alway gave thanks to One who knoweth and doeth all things well.

Anyone who might perchance to step into the Gregory home would feel and sense an atmosphere of happiness and contentment, for each one was always willing to do a service for the other, such is Love and Harmony. Hannah was now taking charge of all her household cares and one evening she said to her husband, "Bennie, don't you think we should have the baby christened soon?"

"Suppose we take him to the Episcopal Church and have him named on next Sunday," said Bennie. This was satisfactory to her and she asked, "What do you want to name him, Bennie?" Hannah dear, you are to choose his name. "Well, then said Hannah I shall call him Bennie after his father". Why not call him Bennie Sharp Gregory—B. S. Gregory, so as to keep the Sharp name in our family.

"Very well dear, just as you say". So Hannah made arrangements for the ceremony to take place next Sunday. She told Bennie that all was arranged but they must select God-parents and have them on hand. "Who shall we ask, dear?" Bennie said he knew whom he should like to ask but he wanted her to choose. But she said, "Bennie dear, whom do you want?"

"Aunt Sarah and Uncle Joe, but then again I feel we should have Dad, for I would not slight him for the world, Hannah dear." "Why, you dear boy, we can have Dad, too for do we not need two God-fathers? So that is settled dear." So it was decided that Bennie call on his aunt and uncle and request them to stand for the baby, but at the supper table Hannah had told her father and he was glad that they had chosen Aunt Sarah and her husband, and he too, was pleased to be the second God-father, "But even if I had not of had that honor, I will always

have the child's welfare at heart, so rest assured on that score, my children. But what are you going to call him dear?" "Bennie Sharp Gregory," said Hannah. So you are going to keep the Sharp name in your family—how considerate of you both?" Hannah told her father that the name was left to her and she said, "Bennie after his father, but, Bennie suggested that we call him Bennie Sharp Gregory, and we decided on that, so it is Bennie who deserves the credit for any consideration on that subject, father dear."

Mr. Sharp was touched, he rose and shook hands with Bennie, saying, "My boy, it was the influence of Hannah's Mother that did that. "Yes, I know she is ever near and we feel her influence very strongly at times, and She is welcome at all times".

After supper Bennie hastened to the home of Aunt Sarah, for Hannah did not deem it wise to take the baby out as it was quite cool. As Bennie entered the door, Aunt Sarah exclaimed, "Here is our Bennie." Uncle Joe wondered what brought him so soon after supper. Bennie told him to sit down and he would explain his errand.

"We are going to have our boy christened on Sunday morning at the Church down town, and Hannah and I want you to be God-parents." Aunt Sarah spoke up, "What an honor you have bestowed upon us, Bennie!" Uncle Joe admitted he had a great interest in their baby for you know he said, "I am deeply interested in the Father and Mother." "Yes, my boy we will do as you request, but I must confess, it has been some time since I have been inside a church door, but that matters not. However you stop on your way to church and we will all go together."

"How is Hannah, Bennie?" "She is doing nicely, and so is the baby, he is beginning to notice things and lays and coos all day long, he is a darling and the idol of our hearts," said Bennie.

Bennie told Aunt Sarah that he had written a

long loving letter to his Mother telling her all about the fine blue-eyed baby and that Hannah was a splendid little mother." Aunt Sarah, I told mother that even the baby was longing to see her, and that we expect a long visit from her pretty soon, as she did not get to see all the folks on her auto trip recently."

On Sunday morning all was ready and Father Sharp asked to carry the baby for he said, "If we are both spared I shall tell him that I carried Him to church to be christened." Such is love. Arriving at Aunt Sarah's they found both of them waiting, so they went right on, for Uncle Joe wanted to get in before the crowd, as he felt strange.

They rode to within a block of the church, and were soon occupying the seats reserved for them up front. Mr. Sharp sat beside Uncle Joe thus helping him follow the service, and Hannah did likewise for Bennie. When the time came for the naming of the baby, the Rector stepped up to the front, and as he did so, Bennie, Hannah and Aunt Sarah with the baby, Uncle Joe and Mr. Sharp did likewise, and as they stood before the font—the Rector said, "Has this child been already baptized?" "No." The Rector followed by a prayer for the child said,—"For as much as all men are born in sin—etc.—and the full ceremony gone through, the Rector said, "Name the child." Bennie Sharp Gregory was Bennie's reply.

Bennie Sharp Gregory, I baptize thee in the name of the Father—The Son and The Holy Ghost, amen. Then the Rector went on saying, "We receive this child into the congregation of Christ's flock, etc.—Just then the Baby began to cry for he did not like the cold water on his face. Hannah succeeded in quieting him and the congregation sang—

“Father of Heaven, Who hast created all in wisest love,
 we pray,
Look on this child, who at Thy gracious call
Is entering on life's way,
Oh make him Thine, Thy blessings give,
That to Thy glory he may live,
Father of Heaven.”

The service completed, our folks with the child retired to the vestry room and upon answering the necessary questions, the certificate of baptism was filled out and given to Mr. Gregory. Hannah soon had Bennie ready and they make their way home with their treasure. Bennie and Dad joined church with Hannah so the Gregory family were active workers for the good they could do.

As fore-man Bennie was crowned with success, and as the building was nearing completion, he felt it was entirely satisfactory to all concerned, for it was a model structure in every particular, and a couple of days before he finished, he was surprised by a visit from two of his employers who had gone over it, giving it a thorough inspection.

Seeing Bennie, they smiled and said, “Mr. Gregory, this structure stands as a model for workmanship and durability and we wish to commend you for your splendid management, and although Mr. Young is our Superintendent, and looked over the job once in a while, we warned him not to interfere with your plans. So in that way we found out what you could accomplish.”

Gentlemen, said Bennie, “I thank you for praising my work, but I want to assure you that I am deeply interested in my work at all times, and I esteem it a great pleasure to see you place such implicit faith in me, and I shall endeavor at all times to do my work in such a manner as to not betray your confidence and trust in me.”

One of the men spoke up saying, “We have something else in store for you and some time tomorrow afternoon, when it is convenient for you

to be away for a half hour, we would like you to call at the office."

After they had gone Bennie wondered what they wanted him at the office for, as he was at a loss to know, but he thought, "Well, I'll soon find out." He was in no wise troubled for his conscience was clear as he had always been loyal to his employers at all times.

That evening as Bennie kissed Hannah and the baby, he put his arms around Hannah and told her he was to call at the office next day, but had no idea, why he was summoned. He told her that as his work was nearly completed that they likely wanted him to look over some other plans with them. "Why, Bennie dear, do you think they are going to promote you?"

"No, dear, I don't see how they can, it is only a little over a year since I was made foreman, and I know they can hardly raise my salary any more."

WE SHALL SEE.

After supper Bennie was relating the conversation to Dad and just remembered that he had said, "We have something else in store for you." Mr. Sharp told him that that sounded encouraging, very encouraging indeed. "What is that, Bennie," said Hannah as she came in from the kitchen.

Bennie told her that there was something else in store for him. "You did not tell me that, dear," said Hannah. "It just came to my mind while talking to Dad, Hannah dear. But we are home now and we will let work rest, so I'll help you dear, and we can have a quiet game of checkers, for I feel that I can beat you tonight, dear, so let's hurry."

Mr. Sharp smiled as he said, "Yes and then I'll play the winner." They started to play, the first game was in favor of Bennie, then Hannah won. So they played a third, this was a close game, neck to neck with Hannah in the lead, then Bennie made a bad move and the game was Hannah's. She

smiled as she said, "So you thought you could walk right over me, Bennie?"

She told him that even if she had not played much lately, and when she played with Dad he always beat her, "But you see I was learning all the time." Mr. Sharp and Hannah began to play and Hannah watched every move, it took close watching for her father was an expert player. They had been playing ten minutes and were see-sawing for a place, when Dad said, "You are learning, Hannah dear, for you have made some good moves in this game." She said she was interested and would watch him very closely. Finally she made a bad break and before she realized it, the game was ended in Dad's favor.

Mr. Sharp laughed as he said, "I thought you were watching me?" "I thought so too, but it seems I wasn't." As it was quite late they retired.

Late the next afternoon, Bennie made his way to the office, to see what was in store for him. He was greeted by the Chief Clerk who took him into the private office of Mr. Thorpe, the President. As Bennie entered he found the President seated at a large table, waiting. "Good evening, Mr. Gregory, be seated," and the clerk left, closing the door.

"When do you think the job will be completed, Mr. Gregory?" "Well, if the weather keeps favorable we should finish it in about two weeks," said Bennie." "Glad to hear that, and now that we are alone I want to be open and frank with you, I want you to know that I have watched, and had others watch your work very closely, and from reports received—as well as from my own observation, you have done remarkably well, better than we expected of you and, the result of this is—that this firm which I represent as President, is about to ask you to accept a position of trust with us—which will be as partner in the firm, drawing the same profits as each of us, but at the same time we want

you to accept the position of General Superintendent, in charge of all construction, commencing the first of the month."

Bennie was amazed, he was speechless for a moment, but finally said, "I would like to accept your offer, but I am rather timid to reach so far." He was assured that they had considered all points before offering the position, and that they had full faith in his ability to manage. "You give orders and they will be fulfilled. I might suggest that you appoint your Uncle your Superintendent, for he has served us faithfully as fore-man for a number of years, and is worthy of it, but use your own judgment about that."

"Well sir, I will accept your offer and I can assure you, I shall strain every effort to bring about good results, and hope you may never have cause to regret." "Mr. Gregory, it is a gratification to me to know that you have accepted the position and I feel sure we will never regret the step we have taken,—so on the last of the month come to the office, and put out your bulletin, with your orders, make out your organization, meanwhile, and think over what I suggested with reference to your uncle.

Bennie said he would and thanking him, he said, "Good-evening." Bennie went out, closing the door after him, and as he passed through the outer office the clerk said, "Well I hear you have a little stranger at your house, Mr. Gregory?" "Yes, we have a fine big boy and we are very proud of him," said Bennie.

"I am glad to hear that, and I know you both idolize him, don't you?" "Indeed we do, said Bennie, and we would like you to bring your wife and spend an evening with us. "We will be glad to do so, Mr. Gregory."

Bennie hurried home to tell his good news. He rushed into the kitchen, and kissing Hannah, he took her in his strong arms and danced around with

joy, until Hannah begged him to stop and tell her the cause of all this demonstration. "Yes, dear I will not keep you waiting, he straightened himself up and walked across the room with much dignity—from the first of the month I am to be recognized as the General Superintendent, and Hannah dear that means a car for us, so we can take our little Bennie out more." Hannah could scarcely believe what she heard so she said, "Do I hear aright?" I suppose you did dear, for on the first of the month I take full charge as General Superintendent, and a share of the profits the same as every other member of the firm."

"That was why I was kissing you so much and dancing with joy, for you, and you alone, your loving self, is responsible for what I am today, dear. For if it had not of been for your love, your faith in me, I would have probably been a drunkard and an aimless wanderer, instead of what you behold. I give you all the credit, dear. With you by my side as my loving wife and the mother of the dearest boy on earth, comfortable and happy home, shared with your father, why? should I not be happy, and rejoice, for success and prosperity has been my portion."

"Hannah dear, when I married I made a secret vow that I would repay or make amends for my deeds of the past, and with your loving helpful thoughts you are doing a big part for me." Hannah said nothing, but she threw her arms about his neck and kissed him tenderly saying, "Yes Bennie, you needed my love, I gave it to you and prayed to the Infinite Spirit to guide your footsteps, and as the days went by, I knew my prayers were being answered." "And now write a long letter to your dear loving mother telling her all about your promotion, for it will make her happy, you see dear, I like to share my good news with those near and dear to us." He promised to write after supper.

Just then Dad came in, and Hannah kissed him as usual and slyly asked him if he could guess the good news? "I have not the slightest idea," answered her Father. "Well, I'll tell you, Dad," said Hannah. "Bennie is appointed General Superintendent of The Keystone Construction Co. to take effect the first of the month."

"Bennie, my boy, that is stepping some for sure," and taking hold of Bennie's hand he said, "Let me congratulate you." "Thank you, Dad, but just as I told Hannah, that without her love and help, I never would have been the character I am today. And I give her all the credit, for her love was such that she would have gladly have given her life to make me a better man. And I feel the same toward my dear Mother, who had tried so hard to guide and lead me by her precepts and her influence, by her **Guiding Voice**, but that restless spirit within me ruled and I was not strong enough to overcome and conquer it, but after Hannah came into my life, things took a turn, until now I am Bennie, re-born—regenerated—Bennie of the future."

Supper over, Bennie sat down and wrote to his mother, telling all about himself and saying that by the time she would get this letter he would be General Superintendent and a partner in the firm where he was now employed as Fore-man. "Mother, I know this will make you feel happy for you always wanted me to rise to prominence saying there were grand opportunities ahead for me if I would but grasp them, and how hard you tried to help me by asking me to Heed your Guiding Voice and be led aright, and how many times I promised, but my will-power was not sufficient to overcome the tendencies that drew me into evil conditions—and drunkenness was the result. Then, mother dear, Hannah came into my life, I began to realize her love and responded, so I give her credit, for, by her love—I have a loving wife, and we have a fine big

son—and a home fit for anyone to live in, where harmony and love reigns supreme.

And I say again it was your **Guiding Voice**, urging me on to grander opportunities, to settle down and be a better man. Today I am a new man, living a God-like life, and the Light of Prosperity is shining upon me with its radiance and glory. If you care to come and feel able to make the trip, I will forward your expenses.

Give our best love to Arthur and Peggy and the children, not forgetting Marie. Hope you are all well as this leaves us enjoying good health. Hannah's Father joins in sending love to all. Bennie Sharp Gregory wants to see you."

Late that night, they received a wire from New York—Mother sick, will wire condition in morning—Arthur.

CHAPTER XXV

MOTHER GREGORY'S ILLNESS AND DEATH.

As Bennie left for work the next morning, he said to Hannah, "Hannah dear, when you receive the message from New York—if Mother is no better—send word to me, and in the meantime, you get things in readiness for a hurried trip, and I'll get here as soon as possible and we shall go on to New York."

Hannah said she would do so, but hoped to get a favorable message. So with the assurance that Hannah would let him know, he started off, and we find him at the Master's wheel, guiding and steering the ship to success, for he must make good and with that determination, he bent every effort; and with his Will-power and the co-operation of the men under him, he would win.

Bennie had made out his list of organization and had it posted on the last of the month. One of Uncle Joe's staunch friends, a man who had been employed for a number of years with the firm, was the first to see the bulletin after it was posted and was surprised to see that Old Joe was listed as Superintendent, and he lost no time in spreading the news.

So by the time the news reached Joe, he was greeted by, "Good-morning, Super," but taking it as a joke, he told the man to quit joking, "And get that stone squared up and start cutting." But the man said, "I'm not joking, Joe, your name is on the bulletin for Superintendent, and signed Bennie Gregory, General Superintendent."

This was interesting news—good news to Joe, not that he cared so much for himself, but he

thought of Bennie, for he wanted to see him pushed ahead, he knew he would be finally but did not expect the good news so soon.

Bennie did not get a chance to speak to his uncle, with reference to the change until that night, when he and Hannah and the baby, took a walk to Uncle Joe's home. Here they were greeted warmly and made welcome, Aunt Sarah reaching for the baby at once and then Uncle Joe said, "I've been wishing all week that you would come over and bring the baby." Turning to Bennie, he said, "You foxy boy" so the Company have made you General Superintendent, that's stepping up some, and I give you credit for it. I knew they were watching you very closely, but never dreamt that they would land you so high, but they did mention you for Superintendent."

"So you knew, Uncle, what was going on, did you not?" And never told me. "I have appointed you Superintendent, Uncle Joe. "Yes, one of my men informed me this morning. Well Bennie, my boy, always knew your head would win prominence for you, provided you cut out the drink, and I hoped day by day to see you succeed, and my hopes have been realized."

"Uncle, I must give you credit for my workmanship, for did you not teach me?" Uncle Joe put his hand on Bennie's shoulder as he said, "But that gift you have within you carried you through, and I did not realize then, that some day, my nephew My Bennie—My Boy would be General Superintendent and appoint me his Superintendent." He could say no more, the tears were flowing down his cheeks—tears of joy—for his dreams for Bennie had come true.

"I suppose you have heard that Mother is not at all well, Auntie," said Bennie. She told him she had heard. Hannah then told them that they had a wire that day saying that Mother Gregory was

just the same, no change. Bennie had intended to leave at once if she had been any worse, "But if there is not a great improvement by the end of the week, we shall run up for the week end."

"Mother is in the latter span of life, and we realize that her stay in this material life, is short at best, and I want to do everything in my power to make her comfortable while with us, for I feel that is a debt I owe to her dear loving self," said Bennie.

Hannah said that they hoped God would spare her for a while yet, for we all realize that Peggy will miss her, perhaps more than the rest, for mother has been with her and her family for many years and Arthur was a good son to her, but as we heard the choir singing last Sunday—

"Thy Way, not mine, Oh God,
However dark it be
Lead me by Thine own hand;
Choose out the path for me."

"Yes, we must ask for guidance of an all wise Creator, and whatever path is chosen for us, it is our duty to follow," said Aunt Sarah.

And said Hannah, "If it's God's will, then we must not grieve, but try to make mother happy while with us, and by so doing we are sowing seeds of kindness and we shall reap a rich and glorious reward in our future life with our Loved Ones who are anxiously awaiting our coming with outstretched hands."

Uncle Joe looked at Hannah and told her what an influence she had been in Bennie's life, and admitted that he, too was a changed man, since coming in touch with her and how he now saw his errors and thought of her many times.

Hannah smiled and said, "Yes, Uncle Joe, my mother who is now in Spirit always taught me to be kind and carry a loving thought wherever I might go and I have made that a hard and fast rule,

so when I became attached to Bennie—why I loved every one who loved him, so that is why I love you, uncle.”

“Well, Hannah dear, had we not better start for home, as Dad is all alone and it is getting late for Bennie Sharp to be out?” So Hannah wrapped her treasure up, and they were ready to leave, saying, “Come to visit us, but by the way perhaps Aunt Sarah and you would like to go to New York over the week end?”

Uncle Joe said he had promised to go soon, but he wanted a week, but said he would think about it and let them know in time

But We Shall See.

Bidding them Good-night, they were soon home where Dad was waiting for them. “Dad, said Bennie, we stayed a little longer than we expected, but I wanted to talk to Uncle Joe about his appointment.” “I suppose he was surprised, was he not,” asked Dad? Not at all for one of his men had already told him that he was on the list for Superintendent and that I was General Superintendent.

“I wonder if Hannah is going to give us a lunch, Dad,” said Bennie. “Well I have fresh coffee ready, and as Hannah overheard the question, she smiled and told them they could have anything they wished.” Dad just smiled as much as to say, “I told you so.” So they ate a light lunch and retired for the night.

The next morning after the men had gone, Hannah received a night letter saying that the doctors see very little change in mother’s condition and that she may linger a long time. As there was nothing urgent in the message she did not send word to Bennie.

All day Bennie was busy, looking over the different jobs, seeing that the newly appointed fore-man was taking charge, and also glad to see that Uncle Joe was filling his position well. Going

from one place to another, he came in direct contact with the men, who were pleased to know that he was now General Superintendent, and as they shook hands they wished him well, for he had always been a friend to them and had often helped them out of difficulties.

On reaching home he kissed Hannah and the baby and then greeted Dad as was his custom. Hannah said, "Bennie dear there is a night letter on the mantle, you read it for yourself."

In the Thomas home there was much sadness for Peggy realized that her dear mother would not be with them much longer, as she was now bed-fast. So Peggy nursed her with tenderest care and at night Arthur would take his turn, for he loved to sit by her bed-side and talk of the future and perchance read to her—such was his love for her.

One evening near the close of the week, as Marie was reading to her mother, Mother said, "Marie dear, I shall soon be with your father, he is calling me and bidding me come; so write to Bennie and ask him to bring Hannah and the Baby for I am longing to see the darling." Marie said she would write at once. Her mother then told her that she felt her time was drawing to a close. Just then Arthur came in and sat down beside her. Mother smiled and said,

"How still and peaceful is the grave!
Where, life's vain tumult past,
Thy appointed house, by Thy decree,
Receive us all at last.

The wicked there from troubles cease,
Their passions of rage no more;
And their the weary pilgrim rests
From all the toils he bore.

There rests the prisoners, now released
From slavery's sad abode;
No more they hear the oppressor's voice,
Or dread the tyrant's rod.

And Remember—

There servants, masters, great and small,
Partake the same repose;

And there, in peace, they mingle with
Those who once were foes."

"But as ye sow, so ye reap."

"Yes, it is a great gratification to know we shall meet our loved ones, just across in the border-land of spirit. That is quite true, mother," said Arthur. "As there is only a thin veil between us."

"Yes, I have often thought of the good things in store for us in the mansions of the blest, and I realize that my short span on this side is about completed and I am resigned—For Oh God"

"Soon shall my eyes behold Thee
With rapture, face to face;
One half has not been told me
Of all Thy power and grace;
Thy beauty, God, and glory,
The wonders of Thy love,
Shall be the endless story,
Of all Thy saints above."

The next morning the Doctor called and in his good natured and kind hearted way, said, "How are you this morning, Mrs. Gregory?" "Well," said that dear Soul, "I really don't know, for I feel no better—and no worse, just about the same." "Well, I shall give you something to strengthen your vitality as it seems low, for it ebbs and flows," said he. "All right, doctor, but yet I feel I will not get any better for you know, doctor, our lives are full of ebbs and flows according to circumstances and some day, soon, I shall go out of this life to a better and more beautiful life beyond. I have been preparing myself to meet the Master, who governs all circumstances and conditions of this life, who judges every man and woman by the deeds of the past for it is true that as ye sow so shall ye also reap—so doctor—if you are not on the right path, think it over—will you?"

The doctor smiled and said, "I certainly will do so." Marie who was sitting by the bed-side, marvelled at these remarks. The doctor left the medicine and bid his patient "Good-morning." Going down stairs he met Peggy who anxiously inquired about her mother. She was told that there was no change, just lingering, "So there is no need of immediate alarm, but I will say that your mother is a very remarkable woman and a devout Christian; for the advice she just gave me shows she is resigned and ready to leave this world, to go to a better land prepared for those weary souls in need of rest."

"Yes, my mother has a good Christian soul within her, and always tries to lead others to see the light," answered Peggy. "Well, good-morning, Mrs. Thomas, I will call about this time, in the morning."

About four o'clock Peggy got a letter from Bennie saying that they would arrive in New York next Saturday on the six P. M. via Pennsylvania Road, "Unless we get word that mother is worse, in that case we will start at once. Hannah and baby send their love. Give our love to all the children—Bennie and Hannah." With the letter in her hand she went to her mother and told her that Bennie was coming to see her and would bring Hannah and the baby.

Mother Gregory smiled faintly, saying, "I knew they would come soon, and I am longing to see Bennie's son, another Grand-son (Bennie)."

If we sum up the total of our lives, we find in some part of it, that we have been attracted to some person—or some one has been attracted to us, and that very presence made us feel all lifted up, for there is "that something" about it that can not be explained in words. You can make your presence a real benediction in this world. You can make people glad you are around. For all you need to

do is to send out kind thoughts from the garden of your soul, and you have accomplished it.

So it was with this noble soul lying on a sick-bed. "That something" was coming to see her—Her Boy—with his wife and son. Her Grand-son whom she had never seen. This visit will be the means of reviving that dear soul from her present condition—oh yes, far better than any medicine—and she was waiting very anxiously for their coming.

Saturday morning when the doctor made his usual call he was surprised to see the change as he said, "Well, well, Mrs. Gregory, you seem so much better this morning and I'm so glad." Mother Gregory told him she felt like she had wings, she felt so light-hearted and asked him if he knew why?

"No," said he. "Well said she smiling at Peggy who was by her side—it is because—my boy—his wife—and my grand-son will be here in a few hours to see me." The doctor nodded his head and said "I understand now—yes, Mrs. Gregory I understand now—it is the presence of some one you love and adore, that is lighting you up." And it is true in every case.

The doctor told Peggy to keep a close watch on her mother when Bennie leaves her as she will be affected. "I shall call as usual in the morning, but be very careful—cater to her every want as this visit may prove a very interesting case."

When Arthur came in he went to Mother Gregory's room the first thing as was his custom, and seating himself by her side he said, "Well, mother how are you by this time?" "I am feeling better, Arthur." He told her he was glad to hear that but what does the doctor say? She told how glad he was to see me so much better. "I came in with a dull head, mother, but that news makes me feel brighter."

"Does it," asked she? "Indeed it does, mother."

Peggy came in with some broth which she wanted her mother to sip, saying, "Marie will stay with you and will read to you, and we will be back in a few minutes."

Arthur and Peggy went down stairs for she was anxious to tell him what the doctor had confided to her, and the fear he expressed, as to what effect Bennie's departure might have on mother. "Yes, that seems natural that it would, but I think we had better not tell Bennie or Hannah." Peggy agreed with him. They ate their supper and returned to the sick-room.

Mother Gregory was pleased to have them close to her and smilingly she said, "Arthur come by my side and read for me, as I love to hear your voice." Arthur answered, "Why certainly I will, but what do you want me to read?"

Mother Gregory pointed to the paragraph that Marie had found for her, so Arthur began—"Thy book and word shall be the secret wisdom of nature. Her deep springs of eternal waters shall refresh thee, and the food and communion with angels shall be thine. Thy sorrows shall be turned from bitterness to sweet, and out from the defeats and strivings of thy past agonies, there shall grow the golden flowers for thy future crown. Your waiting shall not be long, nor your watching for many days. The light of another world will be on thee, and thy brow and features as a glorious halo, for your sorrows will be turned to joy.

Just then the door-bell rang and Arthur went to answer it. Mother smiled saying, "That's my boy." Peggy took her mother's trembling hands in hers and as she caressed her fondly, said, "Try and compose yourself, mother, and do not excite yourself, dear." "Why, child, seeing Bennie and Hannah and their son will not excite me."

Arthur greeted the arrivals and Marie had rushed down and taken possession of Bennie Sharp. Arthur

warned them of the critical state mother was in, and our dear soul Hannah answered, "Yes, we must be very careful, Arthur." They were in the living room when Peggy greeted them and welcomed them and soon they were in Mother Gregory's room and Bennie and Hannah kissed her, but she was so anxious to see little Bennie, she reached out to take him from Marie.

Marie placed him lovingly in her mother's arms, and the little fellow cooed to her as much as to say, "Baby loves you, Grand-ma." How she hugged that child to her heart as she said, "My dear little grandson—May the Infinite Spirit shower its blessings upon you, always, and may you be so guided in your daily walks of life that you will always realize that I, your grand-mother, is trying to lead you in the right path, where you lead a God-like life, and be a prosperous and ambitious man."

Peggy now took the child who was cooing first at one and then another. "Bennie, my boy, I was so glad to hear of your success and how it filled my heart with joy. And you. Hannah dear, are doing all you can to help him and make an ideal home. But How is your Father?"

"He is quite well, mother dear, and so is Aunt Sarah and her family." "Come closer to me, Bennie, come closer, for you will not have mother much longer—for I am going to the mansions of the blest, but my spirit will ever be near you all, but I am tired so I want to repeat a prayer I learned long ago, and then I shall take a nap," . . .

"Our vows, our prayers, we now present
Before Thy throne of Grace;
God of our fathers: be the God
Of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life
Our wandering footsteps guide;
Give us each day our daily bread,
And raiment fit provide.

O spread Thy mighty power around us
Till all our wandering cease;
And at Our Father's loved abode
Our Souls arrive in peace.

Such Blessings from Thy gracious hand
Our humble prayers implore;
And Thou shalt be our chosen God,
And portion evermore."

As she paused a moment she smiled faintly and requested them all to kiss her for she wanted to lay down and rest. So each kissed her lovingly, even Baby Bennie. Then Marie who was her mother's nurse, made her as comfortable as loving hand could do so. They bade her good-night and went to their rooms, leaving Marie alone with her mother who was soon sleeping peacefully.

But Marie did not sleep, she kept faithful watch, and many times during the night, Peggy looked in to inquire if all was well. At five o'clock Hannah came in to relieve Marie, and promised to call her the moment mother would stir. So being satisfied Marie went to rest.

About eight o'clock Mother Gregory awoke and was surprised to see Hannah. "Good-morning mother dear, did you rest well?" asked Hannah. "Yes dear, but I feel the time is approaching for me to leave." Hannah told her she hoped she would be spared to be with them a long time yet.

"No, Hannah dear, it can not be, but I shall always be near you—and she dozed off again, and that tireless watcher, watched. It was ten o'clock when she awoke and the doctor had called but did not disturb her, saying, "Sleep is best for her."

The day was spent in the sick room, all were anxious to be near that dear kind soul—they realized that her time was short—soon she would be with those loved ones gone before. Bennie and Hannah were preparing to leave when Hannah suggested that she remain with the baby and help Marie take care of mother, and he could go on the last train, and if

mother gets worse, we will wire you. That was agreed on. So Bennie spent the remaining hours by his mother, and that dear soul was so pleased to hold his hand and stroke his hair, as she talked to him—just as she used to do when he was a boy. How she loved him and idolized him and he returned her love.

Kissing her good-bye, he said, "Hannah will stay and I'll come back next Saturday." "You will come sooner than that, Bennie, my boy, won't you?" "I'll try mother." "Do, my boy,—you will come—" she realized—and so did he.

Bennie had gone. Even though it was very late he called at Aunt Sarah's and reported his mother's condition. She told him she would go early in the morning and Bennie, "If you get word that your mother is worse, you let Uncle Joe know and he will come with you." "All right, auntie dear, I'll do that, good-night."

On reaching home, he had to arouse Dad, for it was late. Bennie told him that his mother may pass away any minute. "Then she is very low, my boy," said he. "Yes, Aunt Sarah is going up in the morning and I think I shall go back with her, for I want to be there when Mother passes out."

Dad and Bennie retired, but Bennie was too restless to sleep, so he was up very early and ready to start. He went to Aunt Sarah's and that dear soul was surprised to see him so early as she inquired, "Any more news, my boy." He told her he was going back with her and if she could be ready they would leave on the seven train and that would get them in New York about Nine O'clock. "I'll be ready."

Arriving at the station they had ten minutes to spare after getting the tickets, so Bennie sent a wire to the President of the Company stating his errand and would write particulars from New York.

The train was in and Aunt Sarah called to him to hurry and he just got on as the train started. They

were on time and as Bennie knew the way he and Aunt Sarah were soon at the Thomas Home on Washington Heights.

Peggy was surprised when she answered the bell—to see Aunt Sarah and Bennie. “Did you get Arthur’s wire, Bennie?” He told her he did not.

“He wired until two o’clock to come at once for mother seemed worse at mid-night—and we sent for the doctor, when he examined Mother, he said, “If you want any one to come, better wire at once, for your mother will not last many hours longer.”

Bennie waited for no more, but ran to his mother’s room, and coming close to her side—she realized that her boy—her Bennie—was by her side and oh! how glad she was, for she said, “I am going to leave you, but my spirit shall hover near you, and I shall advise and counsel you, so, my boy. Heed My Guiding Voice at all times. Call the rest as I want to pray for them all and I feel myself grow weaker;”

“My race is run; my warfare’s o’er;
The solemn hour is nigh,
When offered up to God, my soul
Shall wing its flight on high.
With heavenly weapons I have fought
The battles of my God;
Finished my course, and kept the faith
Depending on His Word.

But with my God I leave my cause,
From Him I seek relief;
To Him, in confidence of prayer,
Unbosom all my grief.
Un-numbered are His wondrous works
Un-searchable His ways;
’Tis His the mourning soul to cheer
The bowed down to raise.”

Many times the dear Soul paused to rest, for she was weak and short of breath, but finally finished. Lay back, she said to Marie, “after I rest a few minutes I want to talk to you.” “All right, mother, I’ll send them out so you can be alone.”

"No, no, dear, not to go, for I may not see them again."

All were quiet, but soon Mother Gregory began to whisper,—“Kiss me, Bennie, and they each kissed her, then she said I want to rest, I am going soon, but will be with you always, God Bless you” this was very faint for her Soul had taken its flight, joined the heavenly throng she so often spoke of.

Now that the silver chord had been severed preparations were made for the burial. Word was sent to all the members of the family with a host of friends from Philadelphia assembled to pay their last respects to that loving Soul. (Mother)

The services were very solemn, the good old minister spoke of the departed as one full of faith, and a devout christian woman. One who never tired of inspiring people on to live a christian life; so we have that assurance that her spirit has wended its way to the mansions of the blest. So my dear brothers and sisters do not grieve for your loved ones, for she is ever near you inspiring you.

After singing a hymn, and offering a prayer, the friends and relatives proceeded to convey the remains of the departed to the station where it was taken to Haddonsfield, New Jersey for burial. Arriving there, the services were continued and as the casket was being lowered into the grave, the minister taking some flowers in his hand, said:

“Now the laborer’s task is o’er;
Now the battle day is past;
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.

Earth to earth, and dust to dust,
Calmly now the words we say,
Now upon the farther shore
Lands the voyager at last.”

So the loved ones made their way home, an empty home silent, and so lonely for they missed the presence of a loved one, one who always made others feel better by her very presence.



"I WILL GUIDE YOU, MY BOY. YOU SHALL NOT
GO ASTRAY."

CHAPTER XXVI

HER GUIDING VOICE—IN THE SPIRIT.

Bennie now back to work, no matter where he was or whatever he was doing, he felt the influence of his dear Mother hovering near him. When he felt in doubt as to what to do, whether on a piece of work, or anything pertaining to his welfare, he would be inspired to do, or not to do it.

Some people may think differently, and even go so far as to censure a person for thinking that Bennie was inspired on by "Her Guiding Voice", but let this appeal to their inner selves, but do not argue, . . . for we all know that we are led by a Guiding Hand, in every step we take through, and along life's journey. But some do not realize this, because they pass by unheeding that Voice of the Silence, which we only hear when we are in a meditative mood, and listen.

So it was with Bennie, as he and his wife and Dad would be quietly reading in the evening, oftentimes as from the etheric wave a voice would come clear and distinct, "Mother is here my boy," and they would converse with her loving spirit, and their hearts would be made glad.

One morning one of his foremen asked him to come to a job as he had had trouble in understanding the plans for the library building. The foreman said "Mr. Gregory, the drawings don't seem to plan with the building," let me see the drawings, I think I can explain, said Bennie, . . . looking them over, he said, "follow the plans closely and everything will be all right." Her Guiding Voice was near and said to Bennie, "I will Guide you my Boy, you shall not go astray."

"Thank you, Mr. Gregory, I shall do so. "I will

try and call on the job every day, so do not let anything deter you from going ahead, for you are doing fine work. The Foreman thanked him again for his confidence, but Bennie assured him that he was pleased to help him overcome any difficulties. In this way Bennie made many steadfast friends, at work, amongst his neighbors, at social gatherings, and everywhere, he made his presence known.

That night after kissing his wife and baby, he said, "Hannah dear, while I was taking up some work with one of the foremen, today, my dear mother said to me, "I will Guide you my boy, you shall not go astray." "Yes, Bennie dear I realize your mother who is in spirit is near us." Dad came into the dining room when he heard Bennie, and when Bennie greeted, and said, well, Dad, how are you this evening? Never better in my life, Bennie, said Dad, I was just reading Longfellow, said Dad, and he must have been a grand soul; to make such utterances, listen, to what he says: But Dad was interrupted, for Hannah called,—“supper is ready.” Well said Dad, “I will read to you after supper, this peaceful family, sat down and talked of the events of the day,—the weather,—work, but finally Dad said:

“I heard the trailing garments of the night,
Sweep through the marble halls;
I saw her sable skirts all fringed with Light
From the Celestial walls;
I felt her presence, by its spell of night,
Stoop o’er me from above;
The calm, majestic presence of the night,
As of the One I Love.”

“What an inspired thought,” said Hannah, “to send out on the etheric wave, to be drunk in by the thinking people.” “It certainly is a beautiful thought,” said Bennie.

“Arthur Thomas,” said Dad, “must be gifted with some power, whether it is what they term clairvoyant, or whether it is Intuition, I am not able to

say, but he seems to commune with his loved ones, and before many days go by, we shall hear of him receiving a message from our dear mother,—Bennie.” “Yes, I am sure of that, said Bennie for mother was so attached to Arthur, and Teresa, and her Grand-children, that she will come to them, as soon as a channel can be opened.”

It was getting rather late, and they prepared to retire. “I have a little work to do yet,” said Hannah, “but don’t let me detain you; as I must look to the comfort of Bennie Sharp, who was cooing to draw his mother’s attention, yes dear, I hear she said to the baby,—Good night Dad,”—“Good night dear,” said Dad.

Bennie waited till Hannah had looked after Baby’s comfort, then taking him up in his arms they went upstairs.

Peggy suffered, although not outwardly, for she tried to hide her grief but when she was alone she would bereave the loss of her dear mother. As she would think of the childhood days when mother looked after their every need, and especially of Bennie, who was the wayward child and to him, this dear mother would talk and advise pleading that he turn from evil companions and walk in the straight and narrow path. With a Mother’s confidence that all would be well, if she keep on instilling these good thoughts in his mind. And that dear soul was not dis-appointed, for her idol was at last the man she had pictured him, successful—prominent and God-fearing.

To think good thoughts and send them out on the atmosphere, while you sojourn in the earthly sphere, then when the last hour cometh and your spirit takes up its abode in the mansions prepared for those seeking rest, you will be blessed for the seeds of kindness that you have sown, for it is a true saying—“As ye sow so shall ye reap.”

Marie realized that her sister was feeling the loss greatly and tried in every way to brighten her

up. "You know Peggy dear, that Mother is still with us, "There is no death," our mother still lives in the Spirit and I feel her beautiful influence ever around me, you must not grieve Peggy dear, Mother would not want you to do so." "I can not help it Marie dear, for I miss her so much and the children are always asking when Grand-ma is coming back."

When Arthur came home that evening he saw at once that his wife had been crying, and said to her, "Why cry, Teresa dear? you should not grieve so, Mother is still with us, and loves us still, and we all love her, as we have always done." Mother will come dear, so let us wait patiently."

"Serene, I fold my hands and wait,
Nor care for wind, or tide or sea,
I rave no more against time nor fate,
For lo, my own shall come to me.

I stay my haste, I make delays,
For what awaits this eager pace,
I stand amid the Eternal ways,
And what is mine shall know my face.

Asleep, awake, by night or day,
The friend I seek, are seeking me;
No wind will drive my barque astray,
Nor change the tide of destiny.

What matter if I stand alone?
I wait with joy the coming years;
My heart shall reap what it has sown,
And garner up its fruit of tears.

The stars come nightly to the sky;
The tidal wave unto the sea;
Nor time, nor space, nor deep nor high,
Can keep my own away from me."

"That is certainly to the point, Arthur," said his wife. "Yes indeed it is very plainly put together, after you get the children to bed we will have a quiet hour in the Silence," said Arthur.

It was not yet nine o'clock when Peggy came into the living room, saying "now Arthur, I am ready." They then sang:—

"In the moments when life's shadows
Gather thickly o'er the way,
When it seems we are deserted,
And for guidance vainly pray.

Then our spirit friends seek ever
To give courage, hope and cheer
If they fail in their endeavor,
Do not doubt their presence near.

Skys may grow so black above us,
And the stars give not a ray,
But the angels who love us,
Guide us to the perfect day.

Whispering always, 'bide the shadows,
After night must come the morn,
And the hour is always darkest
That precedes the rising morn.

Blessed be our angel teachers,
We will follow where they lead
If they fail we can not censure
When we strive the truth to heed.
Let us work our humble mission
Faithful servants everywhere,
Time will grant a full fruition
And give answer to our prayer."

"What beautiful thoughts we are sending to our Loved Ones," said she. "Yes, it is this harmonious condition that creates The Voice in the Silence, where Spirit communication can be held with our departed Loved Ones," answered Arthur. "Now Marie, you offer a fervent prayer to The Infinite Spirit to guide our footsteps," said he.

Marie responded with a humble and contrite heart she opened her Soul "Oh Thou, who hast in Thy deep love love revealed to me, Oh Holy One: My understanding is now enlightened and I comprehend the truth. Bewilderment has left me, and

all my doubts and fears are gone. For now my days are perfect peace, my delight in perfect rapture flows in knowing Thee. Oh Thou, who dost sustain the Universe in Thy compassion great, Oh look on me. In my blind foolishness, Oh God of Gods, can I discover what this portends? but henceforth I will obedient prove to what Thou shalt command. Oh let Thy Light and Love forever more abide with me."

After sitting in quiet meditation, listening to the voices of the sphere for nearly thirty minutes, Arthur said, "I hear some singing faintly, barely audible but never the less, I hear singing—Yes Mother—is that you?—no answer—singing as from a distance. I hear the words now—listen—"

"Guide me Oh Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrims through this barren land,
I am weak, but Thou art mighty,
Hold me with Thy powerful hand."

The unseen voice said, "Now do you know who it is? "Yes," said Arthur, 'we know it is our dear Mother singing her favorite hymn.' Are you happy, mother dear?"

"Yes, I am happy, and I want all of you to be happy, do not grieve for me—this is a beautiful place and some time again I shall explain—I can not stay long—but as I grow stronger I shall come again—"

"Mother has gone" said he, "It seemed strange for she seemed to be singing and talking from a distance—for at first it was faint, then she drew closer and I heard her plainly but did not see her."

"That was grand," said Marie, and she seems happy. "Yes, dear, and we know she will come when we make conditions for her," said Peggy. Arthur then assured them that she would, for many times she told me she would manifest to us, and she has kept her word."

Bennie was working hard and having splendid

success and some of this success was due to his uncle who was superintendent in charge, but with all his past experience in this line of work, could not fathom out how Bennie was accomplishing the work. But Bennie knew from what source it was coming.

One morning after the men were well started on their work, Uncle Joe, determined to find out for himself, went up to Bennie and said, "The next piece of work will be rather difficult, according to these plans, what do you think about it?" "Well, to be frank with you, I don't see any trouble ahead, or any difficulty, uncle, and no matter what may arise, I always ask for guidance, and faith will do the rest."

"I have faith that my Mother's Guiding Voice, will ever be near me, and guide me over seeming obstacles, yes, uncle, we are all led by a Guiding Hand."

"It was necessary for my Mother to guide me from youth, as I was a wayward son,—I had a weakness, as you know, for drink,—for evil things, but now I am changed,—but my dear Mother still Guides me on."

"Uncle, you realize there are many men, that when everything comes their way, they lessen the drive, their mind is not so keen, as it should have been, and the time comes when a condition arises, they are unready. But on the other hand, driven by necessity, they come to feel the vastness of their big attempts, and determine to bring about successful results."

"I see now my boy," "Then you mean to assert you,—never let up," yes, said Bennie, you have the idea exactly, for I mean to never to let up until I see success, and by the help of the Infinite Spirit, who guides the Universe, and who is the Creator of all Wisdom,—and by the help of "Her Guiding Voice" in the Spirit,—"I know I shall be successful."

"And now uncle I must be going, as I want to go to the office before I go home, and shaking uncle Joe's hand, Bennie said, "Think it over Uncle."

Bennie was soon home, where his wife greeted him, and he kissed her, and then going to the crib in the next room, where he heard Bennie Jr. cooing, he stooped down and kissed him, for this was Bennie's custom, for he never left, or came into his home, without kissing his wife and child.

He then called to Dad, who was in the living room reading, "How is Dad"?—"Fine, Bennie, Fine, My Boy."

After supper was over, Hannah had some passages she wanted to read to Bennie, and her Father, so she said, "Now listen to this advice:—

"In Thy dealings with men, be impartial and just, do unto them as Thou would'st they should do unto thee."

"Thrice happy is the man who hath sown in his breast the seed of kindness, and benevolence; for the fruit of the product thereof, shall be wisdom, charity, and love; from out of the fountains of a warm heart shall arise rivers of love, goodness, and power; and the streams shall overflow as refreshing waters for the benefit of mankind."

"The hand of the generous man is like the clouds of heaven, which drop on the earth fruits, herbage, grain, and flowers, but the ungrateful man has a heart like unto the desert of sand, or the darkness of night without the moon, while he blunders along the pathway of Life His life is swallowed up by his un-gratitude and greediness. It is like the showers from heaven that fall on the sand, which are buried in its bosom and produce nothing."

"The tongue of the sincere is rooted in his heart, for deceit has no place in his words." He is consistent with himself; he is never embarrassed he hath courage for the truth, and will not have companionship with a lie."

"O shut not, thy ears against the cries of the

poor and worthy neither harden thine heart against the calamities of the innocent, for when thou seest the naked wanderer on the street shivering with cold and destitute of habitation, let bounty open thine heart; let the wings of charity shelter him from the storms and from death, that thy Own Soul may live. Then shalt thou hear the voice of gratitude, and the tears of compassion, which are far sweeter than dew-drops falling from roses on the bosom of the earth.

“And remember the soil of thy inner garden, (The Garden of the Soul) is thine own, let it not want for cultivation. For.—“The seed which thou sowest, that also shalt thou reap.”

“Also look well to the garden of the Soul of thy children, teach them obedience, and they shall bless thee, teach them modesty of heart, and they shall not be ashamed.”

“Teach them gratitude, and they shall receive benefits, teach them prudence, and fortune shall attend them.”

“Teach them justice and they shall be honored by the world. Teach them sympathy and benevolence, and their minds shall be exalted. Teach them truth and charity, and then death shall be happy.”

As Hannah finished, her father said, “What a grand and glorious thought, to be sent out on the atmosphere to the human family.” “Yes,” said Bennie, “It is, and I shall always remember how my dear Mother visited the poor and the sick and how she was ever ready to do a kindness, always instilling in us, this thought that Hannah has just read to us.

“Yes, Bennie dear, said his wife, “I was led to the library and picked up the book, and opened it to those precepts, finding therein much food for thought.” I know it was our dear mothers who were guiding me, for I’ve felt the influence of their presence all afternoon.

"Yes, Hannah dear, I feel my dear mother's Guiding Voice near me at all times, no matter where I am—at work—or at home—she is ever by my side and I often think of the words she told me, "I WILL GUIDE YOU, MY BOY.", said Bennie

So with that faith, Bennie, (Mother Gregory's wayward son), the wanderer of the past, is now a man among men, helping his fellow-workers, and in cases of emergency, helping the poor and needy, and says, "By the Grace of God, I will help those in need, and having that faith in Him who doeth all things well, I shall in due time, join my Mother in the home of many mansions prepared for those seeking rest, and thus be blessed by hearing HER GUIDING VOICE, in the unseen, from realms above."

